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'Ministers once backed civil servants'

Somebody is out to get me, says envoy

BY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS AND MICHAEL BINYON

IN AN unprecedented attack on the Parliamentary Ombudsman and Foreign Office ministers, Sir David Gore-Booth, the outgoing British High Commissioner to India, said yesterday that "somebody out there is taking pleasure from seeking to destroy my reputation slice by slice".

He was responding with customary bluntness to a report by the ombudsman in which he was criticised for complaining to British Aerospace about one of its employees. The man, Paul Surtees, who was subsequently asked to resign, was awarded £5,000 after a lengthy inquiry.

In a wide-ranging interview with *The Times*, Sir David, one of the most colourful and controversial figures in the Foreign Office, vigorously defended himself while making a veiled attack on the Labour Government.

He complained that his side of the story had not been heard, and hinted that he had been unfairly treated.

Sir David was Ambassador to Saudi Arabia at the time, and was closely involved with the Bae al-Yamamah project, the largest arms contract ever won by Britain. He said in a personal statement on Saturday — the first of its kind by a serving ambassador — that Mr Surtees was "a rare example of an expatriate with a disturbing attitude".

Sir David said Bae had



Gore-Booth: wanted his side of story to be heard

made it clear that the decision to invite Mr Surtees to resign was taken independently of the complaint about him, which related to his alleged conduct towards a locally hired Asian employee at the British Embassy.

The affair is overshadowing Sir David's departure from the Foreign Office, and will send shockwaves through the diplomatic service, which normally turns the other cheek whatever the humiliations inflicted on diplomats.

It may also renew speculation about poor relations between Mr Cook and his senior officials which surfaced at the start of the arms to Sierra Leone affair. Mr Cook was criticised for appearing to blame his officials for not keeping him properly informed.

Sir David said the ombudsman seemed "thrilled to have

been, in a letter to *The Times* today, rejects claims that he treats "erring ambassadors" less harshly than doctors.

But senior officials and Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, made clear that they would have preferred to name Sir David and face up to the embarrassment immediately.

Sir David, with a reputation for arrogance that preceded him to India, was blamed by some British and Indian media for the rows during the Queen's state visit to India in 1997. Mr Cook, who was also blamed, defended him but it was clear that there was no love lost between the two.

Sir David's resignation before retirement age was widely seen as inevitable, as it was suggested that Mr Cook would never agree to another appointment for him. His decision to speak out before leaving his post is extremely unusual, and will send shockwaves through the diplomatic service, which normally turns the other cheek whatever the humiliations inflicted on diplomats.

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Letters, page 23



Lisa Garton, a member of York Animal Aid, keeps vigil for hunger striker Barry Horne at York District Hospital. Horne is reportedly close to death

Security alert as protester nears death

BY SUSIE STEINER AND STUART TENDLER

SECURITY is being stepped up at laboratories, farms and at the homes of scientists amid fears of an explosion of violence by animal rights extremists as the hunger striker Barry Horne nears death.

Horne, the category A prisoner serving an 18-year sentence for a fire-bombing campaign, is in the intensive care unit of York District Hospital after 62 days without food. He has said he is prepared to die "for every animal in every torture lab" and is not expected to survive the week.

Senior police officers, including Sir Paul Condon, the Metropolitan police commissioner, have privately expressed concern about the impending repercussions of Horne's death.

Dr Mark Matfield, director of the Research Defence Society, which represents medical researchers in the vivisection debate, said: "We are advising everyone who has been a target of the ALF (Animal Liberation Front) in the past to be particularly careful about their security."

The police have been in touch with everyone who is at risk at the moment. We are predicting an upsurge in ALF militancy if Barry Horne dies. You are looking at more violent demos, criminal damage, smashing of cars, breaking of windows" he said.

Horne's campaign to persuade the Government to set up a Royal Commission on Animal Vivisection is gathering momentum across the country as he gains martyr status. Hundreds of people have sent messages of admiration and support for

Horne "laying down his life for a principle" yet his location on a Royal Commission has drawn criticism.

Last night the RSPCA, which is opposed to all animal testing, said: "We don't believe a Royal Commission would help at this stage because it would be duplicating the work done by the Animal Procedures Committee, which is currently reviewing animal testing procedures in the UK."

The Government recently increased the number of animal welfare representatives on the committee and has not ruled out the setting up of a commission in the future.

Meanwhile, the maverick terrorist group Animal Rights Militia has issued death threats to ten "vivisectionists", including scientists, animal breeders and academics.

A statement from the group, released

by the ALF, said: "The ARM has announced a list of ten vivisectionists who will be assassinated if animal liberation hunger striker Barry Horne dies through Labour's broken promises". Four targets have been named by the group, though they have asked to remain anonymous for security reasons.

The ARM threat has been tacitly supported by both Horne and his followers. The hunger striker said in an interview over the weekend: "People must do what they feel is right in response to my death. Look at the evil Nazis and the level of violence needed, quite rightly, to stop them."

Horne's weight has dropped from 14 stone to eight and he has all but lost his sight. He is deaf in one ear and his liver is failing.

Continued on page 2, col. 1

Stagecoach on the move

Stagecoach, one of Scotland's largest companies, is to run the Scottish bus division from England. The change is part of a wide ranging shake-up of the Perth-based transport company by new chief executive Mike Kinsell. Page 52

Fishing cuts

Swinging cuts in the numbers of fish caught in the North Sea have been approved by the European Commission. Page 4

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Solicitors are suspects in laundering drug money

BY STUART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

LAWYERS in at least 60 firms are suspected by detectives and Customs officers of laundering millions of pounds of dirty money for criminals. They include up to half a dozen of the biggest firms. Some are under investigation and intelligence on others is being gathered by specialist officers within the National Criminal Intelligence Service.

The suspect transactions are part of the hundreds of millions of pounds generated each year by drug trafficking which accounts for over 70 per cent of all organised crime in Britain.

Apart from British criminals, major gangsters from east Europe, the Italian Mafia and South American drug traffickers are all known to launder cash through Britain. NCIS acts as the coordinating centre for material on laun-

dering and passes information to forces and squads for investigation. Information is coming from banks, disclosures on suspect transactions required by law, intelligence from abroad and material uncovered by detectives during investigations into major criminals. In some cases solicitors are giving information about rivals.

One detective said: "People are still walking into a solicitor, buying a house and giving him cash. A solicitor should declare this but he may err on the side of client confidentiality because there is a lot of money to be made."

In some cases the criminals have invested in legitimate businesses such as restaurants, clubs and shops. The lawyers can then claim they are only dealing with "clean cash".

Others, including senior

partners in some of the big firms, may suspect but say nothing because they would lose a client. Police say unscrupulous lawyers could charge 0.5 per cent commission on cash they move.

Small local firms and provincial firms are also an ideal cover for gangs because they believe police efforts will be concentrated on London. At least one seemingly innocuous small country practice is under suspicion.

Police say the companies can offer a raft of services to help clients move their cash out of view of prying eyes. All firms operate client accounts in which they hold cash and the solicitors can move this money with few questions.

Solicitors can also set up offshore accounts hidden behind "off the shelf" companies created in a matter of days.

Proud pensioners refuse state cash

BY ROLAND WATSON, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A GOVERNMENT campaign to persuade poor pensioners to claim the State benefits to which they are entitled has foundered on the indomitable pride of Britain's old people.

Some of the country's poorest individuals have declined the offer of an extra £16-a-week, which comes with no strings, because they do not want to sponge off the State.

The reaction has surprised officials from the Department of Social Security who had assumed that ignorance was to blame for the low level of benefit take-up among pensioners.

The findings point to a gaping divide between those who lived through the war and have known only self-reliance and the post-war generations whose embrace of the dependency culture has dragged the Welfare State into disrepute. Ministers were determined

to increase the take-up of income support. But more than a million of the poorest pensioners are failing to claim. Nine pilot schemes were launched earlier this year to make those not claiming aware of their rights and encourage them to receive what was theirs.

However, the preliminary results show that the vast majority are uninterested and will continue to exist on the shrinking relative value of the basic state pension, which currently stands at £64.70 a week for a single person and £103.40 for a married couple.

"They are proud and don't want to be stigmatised by claiming income-related benefits," said a social security source.

Ministers are planning an advertising campaign next year.

Atlantic front set to drive away the snow

BY ANNIE FLURY

FREEZING temperatures brought the first snow of winter to much of Britain yesterday. Skiers, snowboarders and tobogganists revelled in the cold snap but drivers had to cope with treacherous conditions created by snow and black ice.

The highest snowfall was in eastern Scotland with 12cm in Aviemore and Aberdeen. Snow fell in the North East, Yorkshire, Norfolk, Suffolk and parts of the Thames Valley. Last night it spread to the Lake District, Manchester and Dumfries.

Overnight temperatures at the weekend ranged from -3c (27) to -8c (18) in Southern Britain and -10c (14) in the Scottish Highlands.

In Glasgow temperatures barely rose above 1c (34) and in Manchester it was

just above freezing. Bitter temperatures, ice and snow affected many of Scotland's roads with those in the Grampian and Highland regions being the worst affected.

At the Lecht ski centre, about 500 skiers and snowboarders were able to use four slopes. A spokeswoman said: "We have topped it up using the snow-making machines."

Weathermen say warmer air from the Atlantic is expected to sweep across most of the country over the next few days bringing an end to the chilly spell and threatening bets on a white Christmas.

The forecaster Michael Dukes said: "Winds have been northerly over the last few days so it has been colder but the Arctic air will be replaced with Atlantic air bringing milder weather." Temperatures

are expected to rise to 13c (55) by mid-week with rain across much of the country.

Mr Dukes added: "This weather pattern is very common in December. It will last until the middle of the month at least. It could be followed by another cold spell - it's just not luck this time of the year."

A spokeswoman for AA Roadwatch said: "Driving conditions are very difficult all over the country and back roads are extremely icy."

"Drivers should exercise extreme caution even where roads are gritted and leave extra time for their journeys because, obviously, other drivers will be driving more slowly."

Photograph, page 3
Forecast, page 26



"We like to put the heating on at the last possible moment"

Waning support puts Robinson's future in new doubt



Robinson: may go soon

By ROLAND WATSON
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE ministerial future of Geoffrey Robinson was in doubt again last night as support for the embattled Paymaster-General in government circles appeared to be slipping away.

Even those usually loyal to the multi-millionaire businessman refrained from offering their support yesterday. There were also ominous signs that Gordon Brown, Mr Robinson's patron in Government, may be unwilling to fight for his survival. Ministers are now openly speculating that Mr Robinson may step

down over the Christmas recess, blaming the ill-health that forced him to undergo major surgery in the summer.

The clouds hanging over Mr Robinson's future came after he was called into Downing Street last week and questioned about his business links with the late Robert Maxwell. Although there is no suggestion that Number 10 was unhappy with his responses, there is acute concern in Downing Street that the continuing flow of claims about his business past are in danger of making him a lame-duck minister.

Last month Mr Robinson was forced to apologise to the Commons for failing to declare a shareholding in the Register of Members' Interests. It was the second time that the minister had been rebuked by the cross-party standards and privileges committee for breaching the parliamentary rules concerning his outside interests.

Last week he was questioned by Jonathan Powell, Tony Blair's chief of staff, about a series of business deals involving Hollis Industries, an engineering firm that used to be chaired by Mr Robinson.

In 1991, Hollis sold two subsidiaries to another wing of the Maxwell

empire for nearly £3 million. Within hours they were sold again to yet another Maxwell firm for a profit of £1.1 million. Six months later Hollis went into administration.

Mr Robinson is facing an investigation by the Department of Trade and Industry over more than a dozen complaints that he allegedly broke company law before he became a minister.

He was also hit by a fresh claim yesterday that a firm for which he used to be a director owed £500,000 in tax to the Inland Revenue, causing a potential conflict of interest.

Mr Robinson's business background has been the subject of scrutiny ever since it was revealed a year ago that he was the beneficiary of a multi-million pound trust in the offshore tax haven of Guernsey.

Mr Brown has vigorously stood by his friend, insisting he remain in office last July despite strong attempts by Mr Blair to move Mr Robinson from the Treasury.

But last night there were indications that Mr Robinson's support, including from the Chancellor, was melting away.

Friends of the minister refused to be drawn on his future. One said: "That's a matter for Geoffrey."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Two-year delay for £1bn planes

A £1 billion aircraft contract for the RAF, awarded to an American company in 1994, is expected to be two years late, after persistent technical problems and delays in the plane receiving an airworthiness certificate. Twenty-five Hercules C130J military transport aircraft which are to replace the ageing Hercules C130 "workhorses" which have been in service for more than 40 years were due to arrive in the middle of last year.

Lockheed Martin has admitted a series of technical failures, including a build-up of ice on the tail fin and a tendency for the engine to stall. It is denying a claim in Defence Analysis that parachutists in test flights have been thrown against the side of the plane on jumping.

Postal order

The Trade Secretary, Peter Mandelson, will today rule out privatisation of the Post Office for the foreseeable future while giving the service more commercial freedom by allowing it to borrow on the open market and retain more of its profits. But the changes are also likely to mean that the Post Office's hold on household mail and business post will come under increasing pressure from other delivery services.

Gun charge

A leading Portadown loyalist has been charged with possessing a gun with intent to endanger life. Mark Fulton, 38, who is also accused of possessing a weapon with intent to cause a person to believe violence would be used against him, will appear at Craigavon Magistrates' Court tomorrow.

Burns men named

Two men who were badly burnt in an explosion at a holiday apartment in Tenerife were named as Melbourne Thomas, aged 51, and Eric Stevens, 41, both from the Manchester area. They suffered burns to 80-90 per cent of their bodies and are reported to be in critical conditions.

Dry ski accident

A boy of 14 suffered serious head injuries in an accident on a dry ski slope in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, on Saturday. The boy suffered a cardiac arrest and stopped breathing. Paramedics tried for 40 minutes to save his life. Hospital staff said he was in a critical condition.

Row over Short snub to British businesses

By ROLAND WATSON

CLARE SHORT was embroiled in a new dispute last night after confessing that she did not bother to raise the interests of British firms while on a recent visit to China.

The International Development Secretary said that she did not believe it was her business to win contracts for UK firms overseas, even though ministerial colleagues had asked her to do so.

Her comments raised eyebrows in Whitehall coming so soon after Tony Blair placed Sino-British trade links at the forefront of his visit to China last month. The Tories called on the Prime Minister to rebuke her.

Appearing on ITV's *Dimpleby* programme yesterday, she admitted that she was being pressed to try and raise business for British firms. She said: "Within my briefing there was some suggestion that I might raise the odd contract that was around. I didn't bother."

However, Ms Short added that it was not her department's business to become involved in trade deals. "My job is the human rights of the poorest people in the world," she said.

Downing Street said last night it was "relaxed" about Ms Short's comments.

John Redwood, Shadow Trade Secretary, said the Prime Minister should discipline Ms Short. He said: "He should tell all ministers that they must help business from Britain when travelling abroad at taxpayers' expense."

Gary Streeter, the Shadow International Development Secretary, said: "She should take every opportunity to help promote British companies in the numerous overseas visits she makes."

Annan fails to strike deal in Lockerbie case

By MICHAEL BINYON AND MICHAEL EVANS

KOFI ANNAN, the United Nations Secretary-General, failed to win a breakthrough on the Lockerbie bomb suspects at a weekend meeting with Colonel Muammar Gaddafi.

British and American hopes that the two suspects would be handed over for trial before the tenth anniversary of the terrorist attack on December 21 appeared to be dashed after Mr Annan's meeting proved inconclusive.

While Mr Annan and Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, expressed optimism that a deal with Libya was close, the UN chief received no promises from the Libyan leader. Mr Annan had more meaningful talks with Libyan Foreign Ministry officials, which he described as fruitful and positive.

The two suspects believed to be behind the bomb explosion on Pan Am Flight 103 which killed 270 people in the air and on the ground, were Libyan intelligence officers when the Lockerbie bombing was carried out.

A debate on handing over the men is due to begin tomorrow in the Libyan General People's Congress, Libya's top decision-making body, and Libyan officials warned that the debate could take up to ten days.

The official news agency Jana said that any decision also had to be approved by about 500 grassroots national committees. Even after that the government had to make further unspecified "arrangements".

Jana's diplomatic editor, whose comments generally reflect the views of Colonel Gaddafi, said the Lockerbie issue was "an invented and complicated one and it is not logical and reasonable to solve it under the pressure of what is called the tenth anniversary of the Pan Am accident".

Mr Annan tried to reassure Colonel Gaddafi that Britain

and America had no hidden agenda in their proposals for a trial in The Hague of the two men, Abdel Basset Ali al-Megrahi and Lamine Khalifa Fhimah. Neither country had set a deadline, but both governments are pressing for a Libyan response before the tenth anniversary of the bombing.

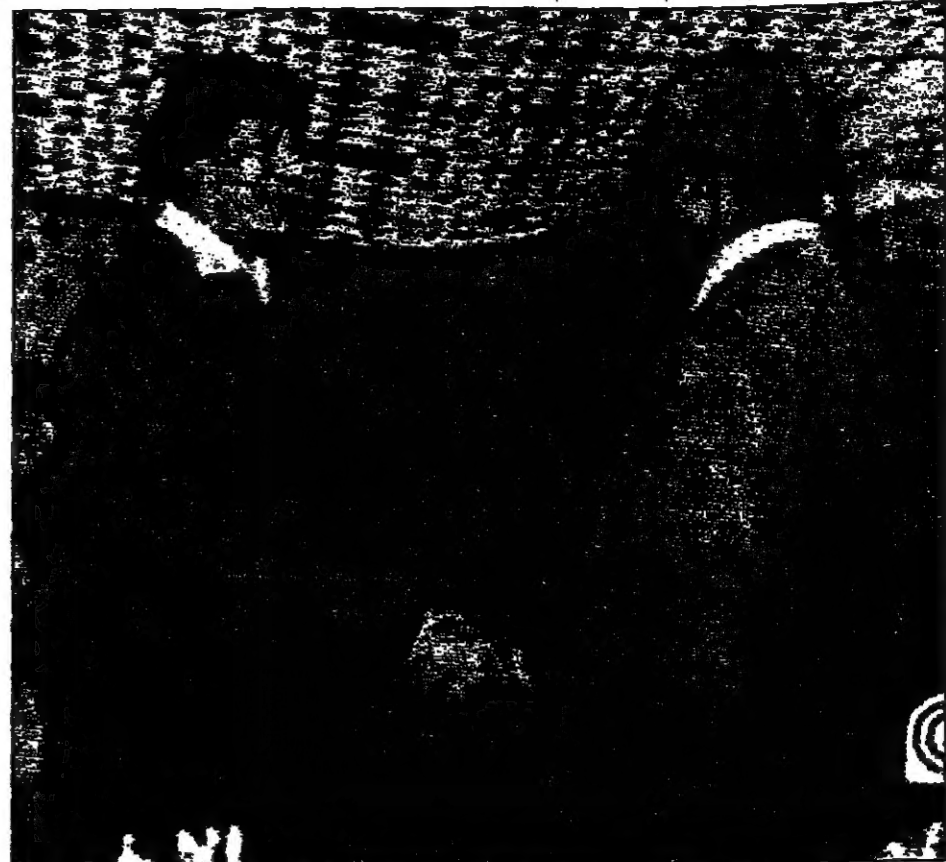
Washington said it was disappointed that Mr Annan's diplomatic mission had failed to gain a definite agreement with Libya, under which the two suspects would be handed over in return for a lifting of the international sanctions imposed on the country since its alleged involvement in the Lockerbie bombing.

Libya is still holding out for an agreement that the two suspects should serve their sentence in a Dutch jail if they are found guilty. Mr Cook said Britain's demand that they be imprisoned, on conviction, in a Scottish jail, was "non-negotiable". Libya has already

agreed in principle that the two suspects should be sent for trial in The Netherlands, after Britain and the US dropped their insistence that the court hearing must be in Scotland or America.

Omar al-Muntasser, the Libyan Foreign Minister, said yesterday: "I think the progress was quite positive but there are certain legal procedures we have to complete and we are working on that." However, he said it would not take long to reach a settlement.

Mr Cook said it would give "great comfort" to the relatives of the Lockerbie bomb victims if the trial could get under way by the anniversary. However, the Foreign Secretary added: "If it takes another few weeks, I have the patience to see it through."



Colonel Gaddafi and Kofi Annan meet to discuss conflicts over the Lockerbie trial

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Before leaving Tripoli, Mr Annan said that an agreement would still require some time, "but not an inordinate amount".

Railway safety criticism to prompt new legislation

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

NEW laws are to be rushed through to force railway companies to improve safety, amid growing fears about the quality of tracks and trains.

The move will be unveiled this week as safety inspectors and MPs lambast the railway industry for serious failures in maintaining safety standards. Official figures will show a five-fold increase in the number of

legal challenges to railway companies by safety inspectors, forcing them to change the way they operate.

Under the new laws, to be put to Parliament this month, hundreds of old trains will have to be scrapped or redesigned and a new emergency braking system will have to be introduced at thousands of signals across the railway network.

Senior rail safety inspectors have become increasingly worried about resistance from rail companies to sug-

gested safety improvements such as better quality track, newer trains and more secure stations.

This week the Health and Safety Executive will unleash its strongest criticism of the railway industry since privatisation. Railtrack, the track and signalling company, will bear the brunt of the attacks, facing heavy criticism for weak management of sub-contractors and failing to ensure adequate training for some contractors. Railtrack is also to be pilloried

for an increase in the number of broken rails, which rose to the highest level for five years in 1997-98.

Although the number of train accidents has fallen in recent years, safety inspectors say that the incident rate is only "the tip of the iceberg", and does not reflect safety standards implemented across the network. The number of fatalities in train accidents rose last year to ten, mainly because of the Southall train crash in West London in which seven people died.

A report into safety on the railways by the Commons Transport Select Committee will also point to complacency within the industry and will demand tougher regulation of safety matters.

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ALF man near death

Continued from page 1

Outside York General Hospital, supporters drawn together by the Animals Betrayed Coalition have held a two-week vigil. There were around 40 people there yesterday, with banners saying "Must a man die for a Labour lie?"

Marie Fowler, a 48-year-old

vegan from Devon, was one of the many outside the hospital who offered her support. She said: "For someone to be willing to forfeit their life for a principle is quite remarkable."

Barry Horne is unlikely to survive another week's hunger strike according to Dr Thomas Stuttaford. Improved care may have fractionally increased the life expectancy of people living on water alone but he has already survived over 60 days, and it can only be a very short while before he dies.

Even were Horne to end his strike today, he would be left with residual damage. For somebody who has been starving for so long, sudden feeding can precipitate gastrointestinal bleeding and perforation.

Leading article, page 23

Band of terror shows no mercy

By SUSIE STEINER AND LISA THOMLINSON

THE Animal Liberation Front has used arson, fire bombs and vandalism in promoting its cause since 1972, when it was set up under the name "Band of Mercy".

Its reign of terror, which includes night-time attacks on laboratories, breeders, haulage vehicles and shops, has caused hundreds of thousands of pounds worth of damage. The ALF has no official members and no specific policies. Its spokesman, Robin Webb, said: "Anyone can go out and undertake action for the ALF."

The group aims, he said, to "rescue animals from suffering or potential suffering and to carry out economic sabotage against property and

equipment associated with animal abuse".

Mr Webb claims that the ALF, founded by the convicted firebombist Ronnie Lee, has about 2,500 supporters in the UK. Others estimate its membership at nearer 300.

He also claims that the ALF is distinct from its more militant counterpart, the Animal Rights Militia, which regularly threatens to kill human beings. "In 1984 the Animal Rights Militia first appeared and they sent letter bombs to various VIPs," he said. "They said that, unlike the ALF, they were prepared to harm animal abusers."

There is a large number of splinter groups, including the Justice Department, the Ani-

mal Abuse Society, the Provisional ALF and the Hunt Retribution Squad.

Described as "an amorphous, anarchistic network", the ALF operates in cells with about 20 bombmakers constructing simple devices using soap, petrol, fertiliser and match heads. In 1995 alone they were responsible for 800 attacks, including 50 bombings.

The Animal Rights Militia claimed responsibility for a series of firebomb attacks on shops across the Isle of Wight which caused more than £2.8 million damage four years ago. Barry Horne, who describes himself as an independent activist, was convicted of planting the devices. The former dustman, a divorced fa-

ther of two, has become a hero within the animal rights world, which lacks the presence of named leaders.

The ALF and its splinter groups have the support of Horne's followers in the Animals Betrayed Coalition. This brings together animal welfare activists from a broad range of campaigns, from hunt saboteurs to anti-fur campaigners to vegans. All are convinced they have been let down by a Government which promised a Royal Commission on vivisection. Few of them, however, can state what a Royal Commission would do to add to the work of the Animal Procedures Committee, which studies alternatives to animal experiments.

Continued from page 1

I do not want to get into conspiracy theories, although there are plenty around. In the old days ministers defended their civil servants. That tradition seems to have been constantly diluted, but the corollary has not been that civil servants are free to speak up for themselves.

"You have an unbalanced situation in which civil servants are criticised for their actions but are not defended by ministers. It is something that has been worrying me more and more as I approach the end of my career."

The ombudsman never publicly names civil servants who are criticised in his reports, but Sir David's name was leaked to *The Times* and other newspapers.

'Someone out to get me'

Continued from page 1

A crack at an ambassador... I do not want to get into conspiracy theories, although there are plenty around. In the old days ministers defended their civil servants. That tradition seems to have been constantly diluted, but the corollary has not been that civil servants are free to speak up for themselves.

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In April Sir David takes up a post with a British company in the financial sector after three months' "purdah" required under Foreign Office rules. He had hoped for an "upwards move" after Delhi and had applied for the top job at the British mission at the United Nations, but did not get it.

"The prospect was staying here [in Delhi] or being sent to Ruritania to see out the next four or five years in a sea of gin. This is one of the top six or seven posts. Normally people are on their last assignment when they get here but I was not. I did well to get to Saudi Arabia at the age of 49 and India at the age of 52. I decided that I must seek another direction while in my mid-fifties. I did not think there was much point in going sideways."

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Dismissed organist's appeal verdict due

By Ruth Gledhill
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE judgment on Martin Neary's appeal against his dismissal as Westminster Abbey organist is expected to be published this week, church sources said last night.

After weeks in which the abbey staff and the Church of England have been in suspense over the report into Dr Neary's appeal, the sources said that Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle had completed his judgment and presented it to the Lord Chancellor's office for release.

Dr Neary was dismissed by the Dean, Dr Wesley Carr, and Chapter of Westminster Abbey in March for alleged financial irregularities. Dr Neary has consistently denied being guilty of any wrongdoing.

He appealed against his dismissal to the Queen, the Visitor of the Abbey, which is a Royal Peculiar and, as such, falls outside the jurisdiction of the Church.

Lord Jauncey was appointed to hear the appeal. His report will be disclosed to lawyers acting for Dr Carr and Dr Neary about 24 hours before it is made public.

Speculation by some supporters of the organist has it that the appeal's findings are strongly critical of the dean and his handling of the sacking of Dr Neary. They say the appeal will clear Dr Neary of gross misconduct, but that he will still be criticised for errors of judgment.



Overnight snow provided fine sledding conditions in Scarborough yesterday. Further falls were expected last night, with milder weather to follow. Forecast, page 26

Girl of 2 orphaned as bodies are found

By A Correspondent

A GIRL of two was left an orphan after her mother was found dead within hours of her father jumping in front of a train.

The body of Sarah Winrow, 18, was discovered in her bed on Saturday lunchtime after police officers broke in. Four hours earlier, police had found the body of Mark Hinton, 28, on the main line between Swindon and Gloucester.

Acting Superintendent Bob Philpott, of Wiltshire police, said yesterday: "We are not looking for anyone else at this stage. But we are treating the death of Sarah as suspicious."

"We are concentrating our inquiries on these two people. There was no weapon found at the scene."

"An initial post-mortem examination has been carried out and there are elements of that which need further investigation."

The couple moved into their semi-detached house in Swindon two months ago. Mr Philpott said that their two-year-old daughter was not in the house when her mother's body was found. "Both families are very distressed at this time and the little girl is being looked after by relatives," he said.

The alarm was raised when a passer-by spotted a body on the tracks, west of Swindon town centre, on Saturday morning. The area was taped off and forensic experts were called.

Man injected his son with HIV to avoid payments

FROM JAMES BONE
IN NEW YORK

A LABORATORY technician was convicted at the week-end of sealing an HIV sample and injecting it into his infant son to avoid paying child support.

Prosecutors described the injection, delivered on February 6, 1992, as a death sentence for the 11-month-old boy, Brian Stewart, whose job at a Missouri hospital involved taking blood, of first-degree assault and recommended that he serve life in prison. If the child dies, the charge could be upgraded to murder.

Prosecutors charged that Mr Stewart stole AIDS-tainted blood from his job and took it to his son's room at another hospital, where the child was being treated for an asthma attack. Carrying his white lab coat, he suggested that the boy's mother leave the room to get a drink at the cafeteria.

When she returned 20 minutes later, she found the baby in his lap, screaming hysterically. She called the nurses, but they could find nothing wrong. The baby had been due to be released that day, but he started wheezing and



Stewart, charge could be upgraded to murder

staying a fever. Symptoms similar to that of receiving incompatible blood were transferred to another hospital.

The mother, who was identified only as Jennifer, told the court that she had met Mr Stewart in January 1990 and had given birth to their son in February 1991. She said she was diagnosed with AIDS in August 1992, she called him to make clear that he was financially responsible for their son.

According to her testimony, Mr Stewart denied paternity and declared: "I told you when I leave, I'm going to leave for good. I'm not going to leave any loose ends behind."

He added dramatically: "You won't need to look me up for child support, anyway, because your son's not going to live that long."

"I asked him what he meant by that, and he said, 'Don't worry about it. I just know that he's not going to live to see the age of five.' He told me that if I tried to find him, he could have me taken care of, and no one would ever be able to trace it back to him."

Jennifer filed a paternity suit against Mr Stewart in 1993 but was unable to find him. She sued again in 1997 and, after establishing that he was the father, was awarded \$267 a month. A paediatrician testified that the boy had been an energetic child who began running high fevers at the age of five. It was only in 1996 that he was diagnosed as HIV-positive. Joe Murphy, Mr Stewart's lawyer, said the prosecution had presented no proof that his client had injected his son, and claimed that the child was exposed to the virus in another way.

The defence charged that the child had come in contact with three intravenous drug users - Jennifer's sister and her boyfriend, Veronica Kuda and Lee Parra, and their friend, Joshua St Clair. Ms Kuda and Mr Parra lived with Jennifer for three weeks in 1993 until she discovered a needle. However, none of the three is HIV-positive.

Mr Stewart is expected to appeal.

Row grows over Rwanda suspect

By Michael Rosenfeld

POLITICAL pressure was growing last night for the arrest of a senior officer in the Rwandan Army who has taken refuge in London, despite being implicated in the murder of 22 children.

Lieutenant Colonel Tharcisse Muvunyi, whose alleged involvement in Rwandan genocide is under investigation by a United Nations tribunal, has been given temporary asylum and welfare benefits.

The Home Office declined to discuss the circumstances under which Muvunyi, who is stand accused of ordering the children's removal from a convent in 1994 during the slaughter of Rwandan Tutsis, has been allowed to settle in Britain.

Questions will be asked in the House of Lords today about how the officer, who is studying English here, has been given permission to remain in Britain with his wife and three children until 2002. Lord Avebury, vice-

chairman of the parliamentary human rights group, said: "The Home Office has a duty to investigate the allegations and, if there is a prima facie case, to act accordingly. I am asking for him to be arrested."

The United Nations international tribunal for Rwanda, which has been interviewing survivors of the atrocity, was unaware of Muvunyi's whereabouts until he surfaced in a flat in south London.

It is alleged that soldiers under his command forced their way at gunpoint on the morning of April 30, 1994 into a convent at the university town of Butare, south-west Rwanda, and loaded the children onto a lorry.

The children, some of whom had sought refuge after their parents were murdered, have never been seen again and are believed to have been shot.

Muvunyi was not available for comment yesterday but denies the allegations.

Two die as speedboat catches fire

TWO men died after the pleasure boat they were on caught fire at the weekend.

Tom Litchford, 56, the vessel's owner, from Pitsa, and David Burns, 58, from Benfleet, both in Essex, died when the 20ft speedboat became engulfed in flames late on Saturday when it was off the Essex coast in the Thames Estuary.

Mr Litchford was found unconscious with severe propeller injuries when he was rescued after spending about 90 minutes in the icy waters.

Rescuers gave him emergency medical treatment as he was ferried to Two Tree Island, Leigh. He was then transferred by ambulance to Southend General Hospital where he was pronounced dead, police said.

Mr Burns's body was discovered washed up yesterday morning on Two Tree Island and brought into shore by lifeboat. Essex Police do not believe there are any suspicious circumstances surrounding the fire.



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Britain backs 'ferocious' EU fishing cuts

SWINGING cuts in the numbers of fish caught in the North Sea have been approved by the European Commission to protect stocks from extinction.

For the first time environmental considerations, aimed at giving young fish a chance to mature and spawn, have guided the setting of the annual quotas.

But the quotas, to be unveiled at a meeting of fisheries ministers on December 17, have been attacked by fishermen's organisations.

The plans, which are backed by Britain and are understood to be broadly supported by other European Union states, call for cuts in quotas in some areas of the North Sea of nearly 50 per cent.

Experts believe that it is the first crucial step towards getting more young cod, haddock and whiting to survive into adulthood, which will mean more fish for fishermen and wildlife and the return of bigger fish to dinner tables.

Elliot Morley, the Fisheries Minister, said yesterday that the conservation approach was "a first". Euan Dunn, marine policy officer at the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, said: "We regard this as a watershed in fisheries management, a real sea-change. It may change the boom and bust cycle."

But Barrie Deas, of the National Federation of Fish-

New North Sea quotas fixed to enable more fish to reach maturity, reports Nick Nuttall

men's Organisations, said that cuts of such magnitude should be phased in over a number of years.

The drive to consider environmental factors when setting the quotas dates back to agreements signed at a meeting of North Sea ministers three years ago in Esbjerg, Denmark, and in Bergen, Norway, earlier this year.

Scientists at the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, who advise the European Commission on quotas, or total allowable catches (TACs), drew up their management plan for 1999 using the new rules.

"Most of the whitefish stock in the North Sea is just bumping along the bottom. The precautionary approach means not only looking at the exploitation rate but the minimum sustainable stock. You are building in a safety factor, a buffer, so you are no longer fishing down to the wire and risking extinction of the stock," said

Dr Dunn. The figures to be proposed at the ministers' meeting are marginally less draconian than those put forward by the scientists. But they still represent unprecedented cuts.

"Fishermen are certainly going to have to tighten their belts. But they should see better catches and bigger fish in possibly as little as five years," said Dr Dunn. He conceded, however, that consumers may see the price of fish increase further.

Mr Morley, who will be representing Britain at the meeting, said yesterday: "They are ferocious cuts. But we always accepted the argument for the precautionary principle and we believe the Commission's position is a realistic one."

Mr Morley, who is to meet fishermen's leaders before the meeting, said a new mood of realism was sweeping through Britain's fishing fleets. "Fishermen are more sympathetic to conservation. For years they have scoffed at the science and were more interested in anecdotal arguments."

"The industry has also recognised that it is no longer about landing as many fish as you can. The recent increase in fish prices means they have been able to land fewer fish but are going for higher quality."

The EU move comes after years of overfishing in the North Sea and at the end of the United Nations' International Year of the Ocean. Dr Dunn said that the EU's new management scheme would set an example for the rest of the world.

The only serious flaw in the new quota system, he said, was the continued high take of about one million tonnes of sandeels by mainly Danish boats.

Seabirds and fish such as cod and salmon feed on sandeels, which are used to make animal feed and margarine. Critics fear that the huge catch may undermine the positive effects of the other tough quotas and are demanding that the precautionary approach be applied to sandeels, too.



Luciana Morad at Heathrow yesterday. Jagger is said to have offered her £300,000

Jagger model flies in for talks with divorce lawyers

LUCIANA MORAD, the Brazilian model who claims that she is expecting Mick Jagger's baby, arrived in London yesterday for talks with her lawyers.

Morad, who flew in from New York, is said to have been offered £300,000 by the Rolling Stones before the pregnancy became public knowledge.

Last week she was photographed in New York after having lunch with Raoul Felder, the lawyer of Jagger's wife, the Texan model Jerry

Hall. Prompting rumours that the women in Jagger's life were ganging up on him, the two spent 90 minutes together at Le Cirque on Madison Avenue. It is thought that Mr Felder was trying to persuade Morad, 28, to help Hall, 42, to secure half of her husband's fortune, estimated at £145 million.

Mr Felder, an American associate of Hall's London solicitor, Anthony Julius, advised Morad, who is three months pregnant, not to answer questions from reporters. But he

said: "Jerry and Mick will be getting divorced and it will be pretty nasty."

Hall married Jagger, now 55, in 1990 after a 12-year relationship. She is consulting several lawyers who are expected to be set the task of tracking down the rock star's money.

Jagger is said to prefer any divorce action to be heard in London, where the couple have a mansion, or France, where they have a chateau, rather than in the United States.

CJD epidemic won't happen, say scientists

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

FEWER than 100 people are likely to die from the human form of "mad cow" disease and an epidemic can be ruled out, it is claimed today.

Two scientists at City University in London say they reached this conclusion through tried and tested risk analysis methods. "What we are saying is that there is not an epidemic and that it has been obvious for the past 2½ years that there is not going to be an epidemic," Philip Thomas, visiting Professor in the Department of Electrical, Electronic and Information Engineering, said.

Professor Thomas and Martin Newby, Professor of Statistical Science, believe government policy has been mistaken

only based on "worst-case conjectures", at huge cost to the taxpayer. They calculate that as few as four, and no more than 15, lives will be saved by the billions of pounds spent since 1996 on such BSE counter-measures as slaughtering all cattle over 30 months old.

The scientists' findings have been submitted as evidence to the BSE inquiry. A more detailed report on their research will be published next month in the *British Food Journal*.

Their study is based on the 23 people who had died of new-variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease by the end of 1997. Since then the disease has claimed nine more victims, a death rate fully in line with their predictions, they say.

The most likely number of deaths over the whole course of the disease is 87, they estimate. The time between infection and death is likely to average 6½ to eight years.

The scientists expect the annual incidence of new cases of new-variant CJD to reach a peak of 16 next year and then to start falling, with no more occurring after 2006.

The forecast death toll of 87 assumes that the ban introduced in 1989 on brain, spinal cord and other potentially infected cattle parts has been 70 per cent effective in preventing such material from entering the human food chain. Had the ban been 100 per cent effective, they calculate, no more than 26 people would have died over the course of the disease. But even without any ban, the number of victims would probably not have exceeded 109.

Even if the average incubation period were to turn out to be nearer 20 years, the scientists say the number of deaths would not be more than 330.

Their prognosis is in striking contrast with the far more cautious view of the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee, the panel of scientists advising the Government. Peter Smith, a Seac member and Professor of Tropical Epidemiology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, said: "I fear they are going much further than the data allows at this stage."

'Livestock fed most antibiotics'

By MICHAEL HORNSBY

AT LEAST three fifths of all antibiotics are used to treat animals rather than human beings, it is claimed in a report out today.

More than a tenth of the drugs used on animals are administered to promote faster growth in farm stock rather than to cure disease, according to the Soil Association, the voice of the organic farming movement, which commissioned the report.

"Figs, poultry and even cattle are getting antibiotics on a daily basis to make them grow faster and to control the diseases caused by intensive production," Richard Young, the association's campaigns and policy co-ordinator, said.

The report comes as government scientific advisers are preparing to recommend that some widely used drugs are banned from animal feed. Their proposals are expected to be announced next month.

Many scientists are worried that the growing resistance of bacteria such as salmonella to antibiotics may be linked to the use of the same or similar drugs in animals.

HOW THE NEW QUOTAS WILL WEIGH IN

The quotas, if approved, will cut the catch limit for North Sea haddock by 23 per cent for 1999. This will mean a fall from the 1998 figure of 115,000 tonnes to 88,500.

The whiting catch will be cut by 27 per cent, from 60,000 tonnes to 44,000 tonnes. In the Staggerak and Kistegat area of the sea, the proposal is to cut the whiting quota by 47 per cent.

Hake will be cut by 15 per cent in the North Sea, down from 2,000 to 1,700 tonnes. A similar 15 per cent reduction in the hake quota is proposed from northwest Scotland to the Bay of Biscay, cutting the tonnage from 55,000 to 47,000.

The quota for North Sea cod, which enjoyed a good recruitment year of new fish in 1996, will be reduced by 5 per cent, from 140,000 tonnes to 132,000 tonnes.

The West of Scotland herring catch will be cut by 23 per cent. The mackerel quota will remain the same.



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Exam results 'not linked to class sizes'

By VICTORIA FLETCHER

COUNCILS that receive the most money for their schools and have the smallest classes achieve the worst results, according to the first detailed figures on local education spending.

Research by the Audit Commission shows that local education authorities which spend almost twice the national average per pupil still tend to achieve the lowest results. Many of them also have the smallest classes.

A league table to show which authorities provide the best and worst 'value for money' has now been compiled by a right-wing think tank. In a report published today, the Centre for Policy Studies suggests that spending more money on education is in fact linked with lower standards in schools and that class size has no bearing on results.

The findings are likely to cast further doubt on the Government's flagship policy to raise standards by cutting class sizes. Over the past 18 months, the Government has ploughed billions of pounds into schools in the belief that classes with fewer than 30 pupils achieve better results.

John Marks, the author of today's report, *Value for Money in LEA Schools* and a Conservative government advisor, says the data shows that many education authorities are getting away with spending vast sums without achieving results. He thinks that the education authorities' value for money should be published annually in a league table.

In one example, 69 per cent of primary pupils in Dorset's local education authority achieved the National Curriculum Level 4 or better while spending £1,510 per pupil and having more than 43 per cent of its classes with more than 30 pupils. This compared with the 51 per cent of Tower Hamlets' pupils who achieved the Level 4 tests when the authority spent £2,347 per pupil and had only 6 per cent of classes with more than 30.

The report fails, however, to take into account the levels of deprivation in each authority. Most of the authorities who appear to offer the best 'value for money' also have the most well-off pupil intake. Authorities which spend most but achieve least are in areas with greatest social deprivation. Such information would help to explain why many of the worst 'value for money' authorities are in London, or places such as Birmingham, Newcastle and Sandwell.

Alan Smithers, the Professor of Education at Liverpool University, said that although the report provided interesting data, no clear conclusions could be drawn from them.

"There are no simple correlations. Bright children from middle-class backgrounds can be taught in bigger classes and still get good results. On the other hand, children from low-income homes may require more attention in smaller classes and still not achieve stunning results."

The Department for Education and Employment said that research had proved that smaller class sizes helped raise attainment. "Small classes benefit children in the early years. It is especially helpful for those with Special Educational Needs and low attainment and those learning English as a second language."

TOP 10

	%+	£/pupil	%30
1 Selton	74	1,451	35
2 Bury	73	1,533	35
3 York	69	1,492	29
4 N Yorks	74	1,618	26
5 Dorset	69	1,510	43
6 Hartlepool	63	1,397	25
7 Rutland	76	1,686	22
8 Stockport	71	1,581	30
9 St Helens	76	1,493	30
10 Trafford	68	1,529	43

BOTTOM 10

	%+	£/pupil	%30
1 Camden	66	2,362	5
2 Westminster	65	2,336	3
3 Newham	50	1,803	10
4 Haringey	56	2,176	3
5 Southwark	54	2,112	7
6 Greenwich	54	2,166	9
7 Hammersmith & Fulham	61	2,483	8
8 Tower Hamlets	51	2,347	6
9 Hackney	51	2,401	4
10 Lambeth	54	2,619	7

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Woman fights to sue over rape trial error

A WOMAN who accused a man of rape then saw his trial collapse because of a procedural error is bringing a test case over the right to sue the Crown Prosecution Service.

Tabitha Bryce, who is discharging her right to anonymity to pursue her case, is determined to challenge the immunity enjoyed by the CPS over the conduct of prosecutions.

The mother of two, from Wells, Somerset, has already tried to bring a negligence action in the High Court, but it was thrown out in the summer. Now she has been told that she cannot have legal aid to appeal against the High Court judge's decision and is hoping to bring a case to the European Court of Human Rights.

"I feel really sickened by this," she said. "But I am not going to leave things there. The Crown Prosecution Service know they made a mistake and I have never even had an apology from them."

Ms Bryce, who has been awarded £12,800 by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board on the strength of the medical evidence in her case, plucked up courage three years ago to go to the police over a series of alleged sexual assaults and rapes that she said had occurred during her childhood and teens.

A man was charged and the trial opened at Bristol Crown Court. As a comfort to her, the crown prosecutor allowed her friend to accompany her into court. When Ms Bryce broke down under defence questioning, she was allowed to retire with her friend to a private

Alleged victim waives right to anonymity in telling Frances Gibb about her campaign

room. But the friend was also a key prosecution witness and, when the court reconvened, the defence argued that the trial could not continue because the witness had been in court while Ms Bryce had given evidence.

She issued a High Court writ saying that the CPS had failed in its statutory duty to ensure the prosecution of the man for rape and indecent assault had been conducted with proper care and skill; and that it had been negligent in allowing a witness to be in court. The case was thrown out on the ground that the CPS cannot be sued.

Ms Bryce said that she had been failed by the justice system at every stage. "If you can't even trust the CPS to do their job properly, what will other women who are attacked feel? It's hard enough coming forward about an experience like this."

She added that the Legal Aid Board had refused her funding after taking into account the value of her claim (which she set at the low figure of £15,000), the likely cost of pursuing the action and the prospects of success. "They say

it would be a waste of public money, but what about the thousands of pounds in trial costs that were run up to no end?"

Ms Bryce's case is one of a number being followed by the pressure group Women Against Rape, which is raising her case and others with MPs at a meeting today in the Commons. Ruth Hall, of the group, said: "The refusal of legal aid in Tabitha's case is entirely unacceptable. It means that any rape prosecution can be messed up and nothing whatever can be done about it."

A spokeswoman for the Crown Prosecution Service said she could not comment on this particular case. She said, however, that a court ruling had established in 1994 that the CPS had a duty to prosecute on behalf of the Crown and had no duty of care either to defendants or witnesses in any case.



Tabitha Bryce says she is sickened at being told that she cannot sue the Crown Prosecution Service

Sex cards in phone kiosks to be illegal

PROSTITUTES who place cards in public telephone boxes advertising their services will be committing a criminal offence under plans to be announced this month.

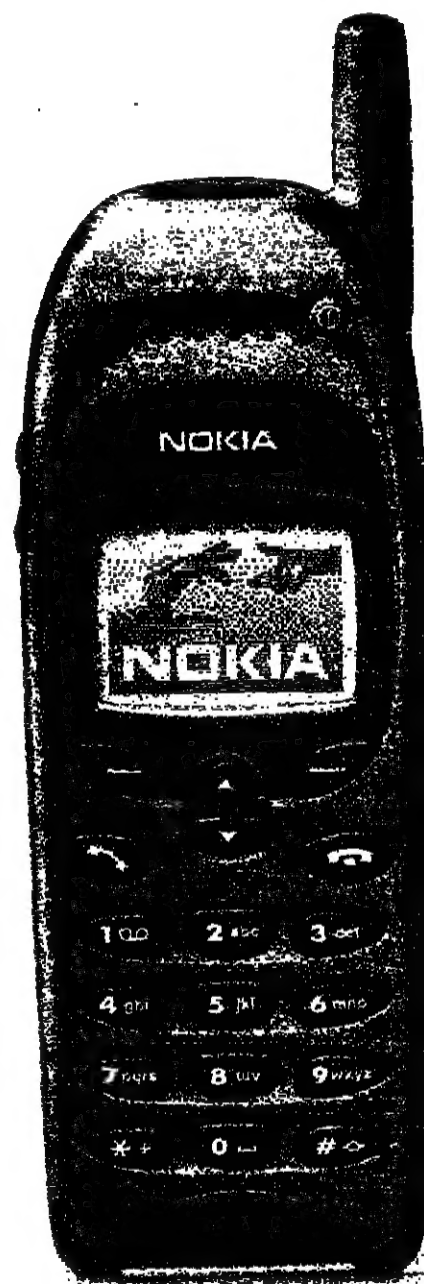
After the failure of numerous initiatives to clean up the boxes, Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, is also to urge telephone companies to take a tougher approach by barring calls to vice-girl numbers from boxes in a particular area.

Fourteen million cards a year, offering a range of sexual services, have proved costly to remove on a regular basis.

Karen Buck, the Labour MP for Regent's Park and Kensington North, who has campaigned for tougher action against the problem, said: "The situation is out of control. The cards are getting more and more graphic, displaying all kinds of practices including sado-masochism. I do not want children seeing this kind of stuff."

A thousand BT kiosks in London are regularly carded, with Westminster the worst-hit. Brighton is also badly affected.

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British link in Caroline hunt

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS AND LISA THOMLINSON

DETECTIVES investigating the murder of Caroline Dickinson in France are looking at the photofit of a man suspected of carrying out a series of rapes in the North of England during the past 16 years.

It is thought that the portrait bears a resemblance to two police pictures released in the Dickinson case, it was reported in *Le Journal du Dimanche*. A man is to stand trial early next year in connection with the British inquiry.

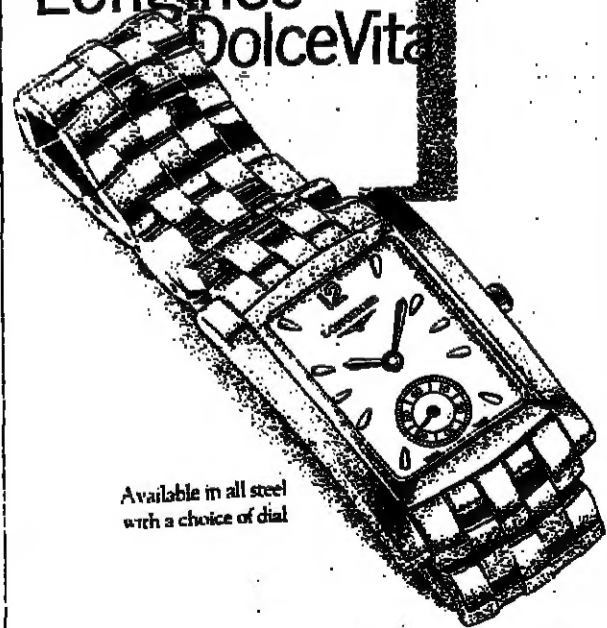
The hunt for the Cornish schoolgirl's killer has shifted to Britain after Pierre Rabin, an undertaker in Calais, said that a person fitting the police description of the suspect

came to his funeral parlour in 1995, a year before Caroline was raped and murdered in a youth hostel in Brittany.

M Rabin said the man had come to arrange a funeral in the event of his death and, as proof of identity, the undertaker took a photocopy of his British passport. M Rabin came forward after police released a photofit of a suspect who raped a woman in Nancy in 1993, which bears a marked resemblance to the sketch of the suspect in the Dickinson case.

M Rabin's evidence appears to support that of a witness who said that a similar-looking man lodged with him a month before the murder.

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More hospital beds for the mentally ill

Changes spell an end to care in the community, reports Ian Murray

A PROGRAMME to take the seriously mentally ill off the streets will be unveiled tomorrow by Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary. It will bring to an end the community-care system started by the previous Government in 1980.

The changes are meant to calm mounting concern about the number of crimes committed by patients with serious psychological problems who

forget or refuse to take the medication and treatment they have been prescribed.

Every fortnight, on average, a mentally ill person murders someone, and every year about 1,000 commit suicide. Since 1992 there have been 150 official inquiries into murders by the mentally ill and a further 30 are in progress.

Since 1960 the number of hospital beds available for

mentally ill patients has fallen from 150,000 to 37,000, even though the number of people certified as insane and in need of secure accommodation has grown by 10,000 to 25,000 in the past decade.

Many psychiatric wards are so full that they have a 120 per cent occupancy rate, with some patients allowed out so that others can be treated. The number relying on care in the

community has exceeded resources and seriously ill people are often not properly supervised.

To overcome this problem, Mr Dobson aims to open hundreds more secure beds for the mentally ill in acute hospitals. He will also set up small secure units with 24-hour supervision where patients can be sent without the need for being certified, so that they can be supervised to take the medicine and treatment prescribed for them. Doctors will be given stronger powers to ensure that patients have to accept treatment in clinics.

A 24-hour helpline and outreach teams to identify and keep in close touch with the mentally ill will also be established under the multimillion-pound programme. The new National Institute for Clinical Excellence will provide guidance on the most effective drugs and therapies.

The new measures are also expected to plug the loophole in the law that means patients who are suffering from an incurable psychopathic illness can refuse to be sent to hospital. This would apply to individuals such as Michael Stone, who refused to be locked up voluntarily days before he bludgeoned Lin Russell and her six-year-old daughter Megan to death with a hammer.

Making the new system work will involve health and social security professionals. Mr Dobson, who announced in July that the community care system had failed, will order NHS staff to work more closely with local authorities to ensure that patients no longer fall through the net between departments.

Anti-smoking drive to focus on teenagers

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE long-delayed White Paper on tobacco will be published on Thursday, setting out a programme meant to dissuade youngsters from starting smoking and to help addicts to give up.

The Government has decided to abandon its unworkable measures to prohibit smoking in public or at work, or to increase the legal smoking age from 16 to 18. After consultation the medical profession and the tobacco industry, it has decided that a ban would smack too much of the nanny state and that more can be achieved by other means.

The 120,000 people who die every year from smoking-related diseases almost all became addicted 20 or 30 years before their death, so the only way to cut the death toll is to stop young people starting smoking. Campaigns have succeeded in reducing the number of smokers among all but those

under 25, where the number taking up the habit is increasing by 2 per cent a year.

About one in three adult smokers picks up the habit at the age of 15. Someone who starts at that age is three times more likely to die of lung cancer than someone who starts in their mid-20s. Fear of a painful death in 30 years' time, however, is not proving a deterrent to teenagers. Surveys show that youngsters are attracted to smoking by models such as Naomi Campbell and Kate Moss, who are often pictured with a cigarette.

A recent survey showed that boys interested in motor racing were twice as likely to smoke as boys who were not. Advertising and sponsorship are seen as major recruiters for young smokers, so the Government aims to bring in a total advertising ban by 2000 — a year ahead of the date set by the European Union — and

to end all arts and sports sponsorship, including for Formula One, by 2006.

"I dread the thought of today's trendy youngsters filling tomorrow's cancer wards," Tessa Jowell, the Public Health Minister, said. "Tobacco is the only drug that kills if used as the manufacturers intend."

With figures showing that poorer people are largely ignoring campaigns to quit smoking, the Government will set up non-smoking clinics in working-class areas and is expected to make nicotine patches available on prescription. Nicotine chewing gum will probably go on general sale.

Restaurant and pub owners and employers will be under pressure to introduce better ventilation systems and no-smoking areas. They will be threatened with legislation to force them to do this if they fail to do so voluntarily.



Pam Taylor and Anna, the golden retriever trained by the Support Dogs charity to help her around the house.

Dog becomes woman's best friend

By CLAUDIA JOSEPH

A WOMAN with Parkinson's disease has had her life transformed for the better by one of a small number of dogs trained to help sufferers to cope with everyday tasks.

Pam Taylor is benefiting from a pilot programme set up in the United States and now extended to Britain. Anna, a golden retriever puppy placed with her as a puppy, has been taught to fetch her post, pick up the telephone and unload the washing machine.

Mrs Taylor, who is in her forties and

lives in Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire, with her husband, Robert, and one of their two grown-up sons, was found to have Parkinson's a year ago. She also has multiple sclerosis.

"The dog has made a huge difference. I couldn't cope without her," she said. "I have very bad tremors in my arms and hands and I drop everything, but Anna is always there. She will pick up everything."

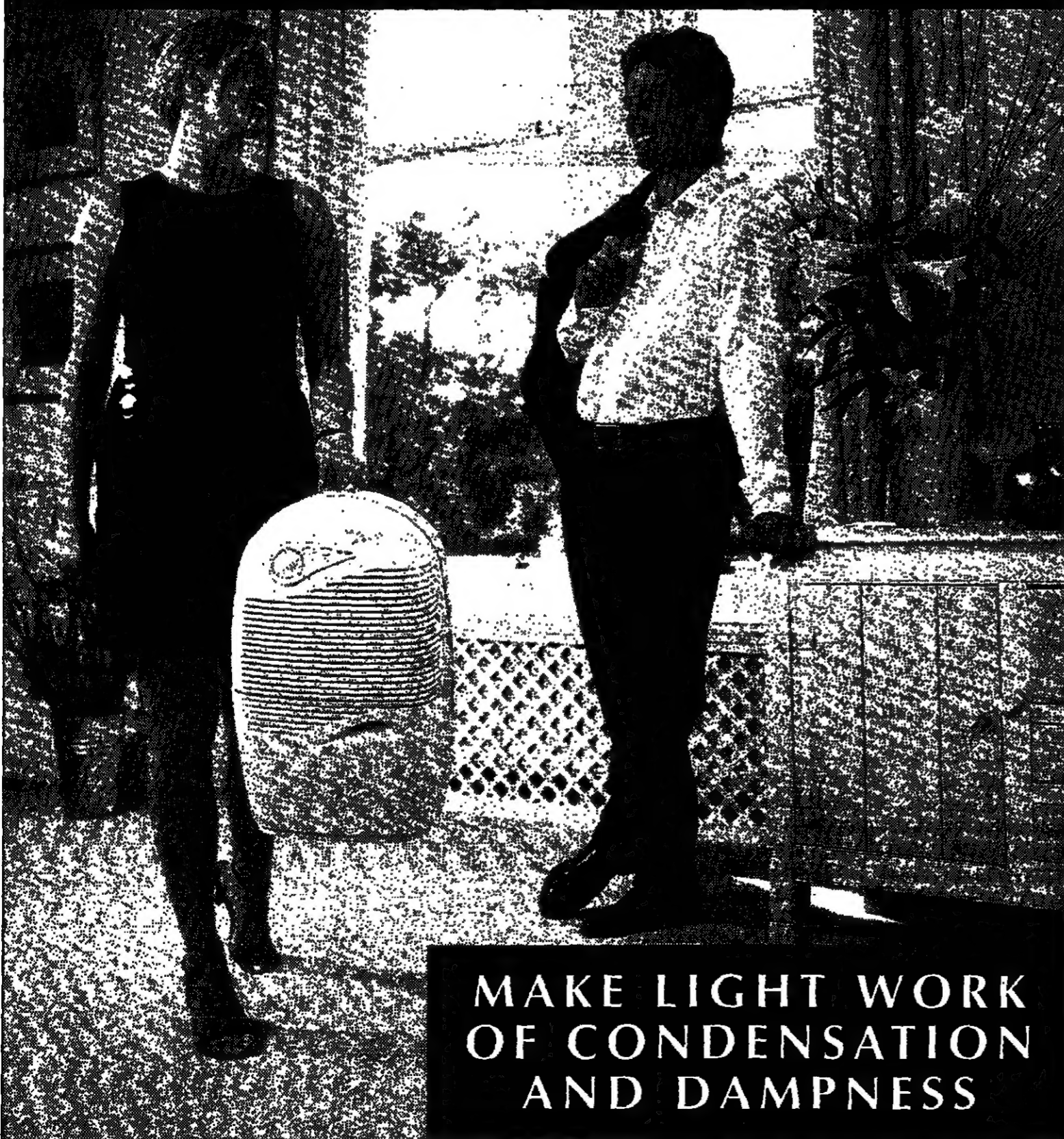
"To Anna it's a real game. She absolutely loves it. She fetches the post for me, picks up the phone and opens

doors. She even gets the washing out of the machine. Unfortunately, she can't do the ironing."

The American programme is being piloted by Independent Dogs Incorporated, a non-profit-making organisation, with sponsorship from Pennsylvania Hospital and the pharmaceutical company SmithKline Beecham.

In Britain, Support Dogs has been training animals to look after people with disabilities including epilepsy and multiple sclerosis. The charity has trained three dogs, including Anna, to care for Parkinson's disease sufferers.

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Take a condom to parties, young told

By OUR MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

THREE quarters of young people drink heavily at Christmas parties and one in seven will have unsafe sex while drunk, according to a survey by the Media Education Authority.

The authority, which is starting a £220,000 safe-sex campaign for the holiday period, adds that, on average, somebody is infected with HIV every eight hours.

Figures from the Public Health Laboratory Service show the greatest rise in the two commonest sexually transmitted diseases is found among 16 to 19-year-olds, with diagnoses of chlamydia up by 31 per cent in 1996-97 and of genital warts by 13 per cent.

The survey by the Office for

National Statistics of 1,600 youngsters over 16 found that one in ten could not remember if they had sex on the night of a party and that one in five had sex while drunk. One in five had been in a fight at a party and three out of five were sick the morning after.

Nearly one in five of the men had been in trouble with the police, and only one in ten of the 20 to 24 age group had not done something they regretted afterwards.

The campaign urging young people to drink in moderation and always to take a condom to parties will be advertised on radio stations and on beer mats in clubs and student bars until December 20.

Teenager found dead in cell

A TEENAGER has been found hanging in his cell at Britain's first privately run jail, the prison's apparent suicide here in four days.

Four prisoners have now died at the £50 million Parc Prison at Bridgend, South Wales, which is run by Securicor, since it opened 13 months ago.

Michael Rooke, 19, of Maesteg, Mid Glamorgan, was found hanging in the Young Offenders' Wing. He was alone in the cell. A Home Office inquiry has been started into the death.

On Tuesday last week the body of Delwyn Price, 30, a remand prisoner, was discovered in his cell at Parc.



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Learning how to protect against Alzheimer's

WHEN the German neuro-pathologist Alois Alzheimer conducted an autopsy on a woman who died with severe dementia in 1906, he found something that amazed him. Although the woman had been only 55, her brain resembled that of someone much older.

The cells were surrounded by waxy protein plaque and had been destroyed by tangles within the nerves that looked like pieces of unwound string. Alzheimer realised that the dementia was not an inevitable result of ageing but a disease. Since his breakthrough, research has been slow to produce advances. Investigation into causes of the disease which has been painfully slow since the breakthrough in 1906, will be aided this year by money raised by *The Times Christmas Appeal*.

It was not until 1991 that a gene that determines susceptibility to Alzheimer's was discovered at St Mary's Hospital Medical School, London. Two other such genes that give a predisposition to the disease have since been found. However, only about 1 per cent of cases occur in people with these genes. There are only a few hundred families in the world with them. Half the children of these families can

Times Christmas Appeal will help to fund studies into risk factors of disease, writes Ian Murray

expect to get the disease at an early age. Even though the genes occur in so few cases, they are interesting to researchers because the progression of the disease in the brain is identical to that among people who develop the illness without having the genes. So understanding how the genes cause the disease may give clues to how the disease develops in the majority of sufferers, where it is not genetically determined.

No one factor causes the common form of Alzheimer's. The best guess is that an individual has to be exposed to five or six risks out of a possible range of about 20. If the risks were known, action could be taken to avoid the condition.

"My view is that going for prevention is more worthwhile than going for drug

treatment," said David Smith, chairman of the scientific advisory board of the Alzheimer's Research Trust. "Drug treatment for the disease is a bit late in the day once degeneration of the nerves in the brain has started."

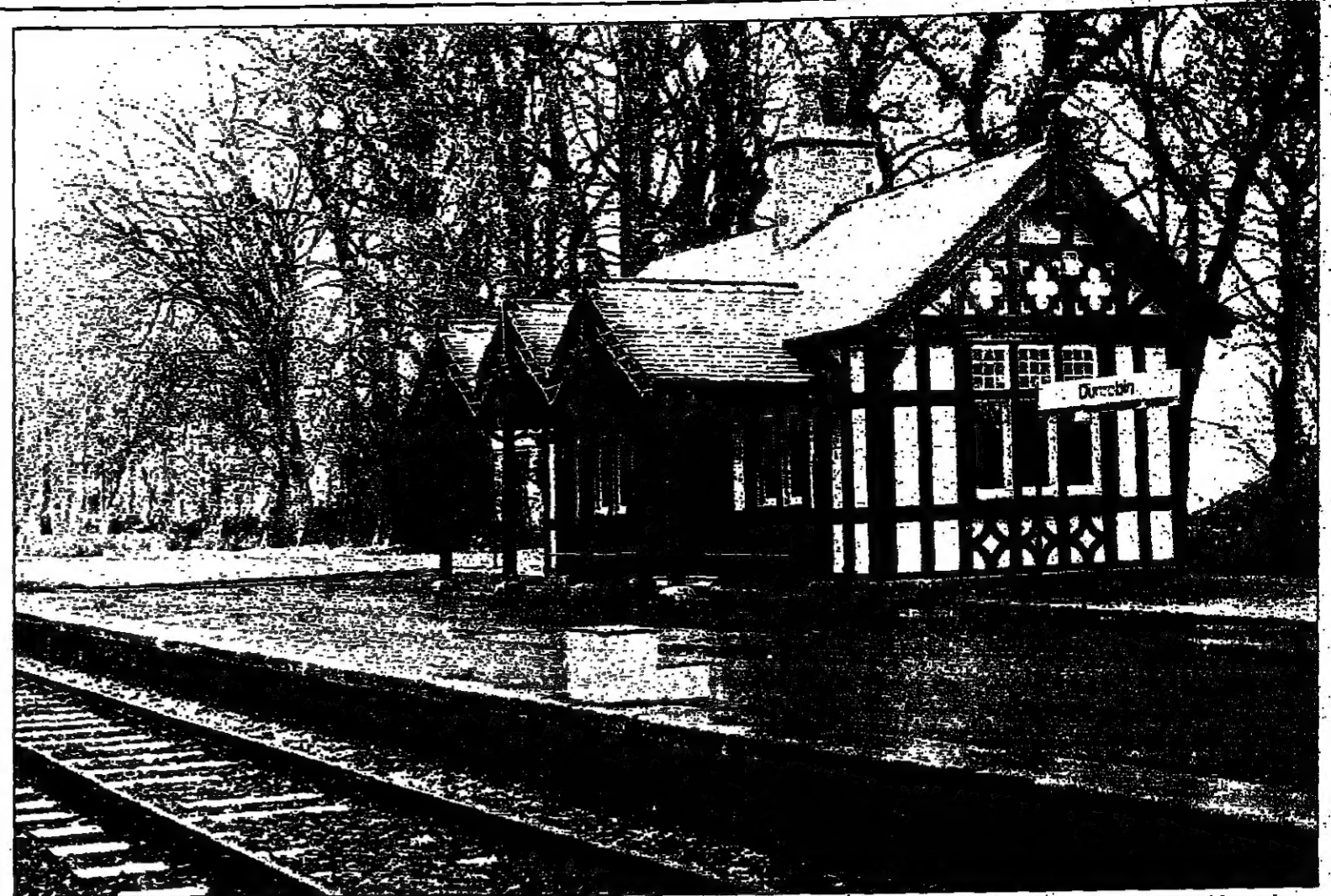
Although the risk factors, apart from age, are not fully established, what happens inside the brain of someone with Alzheimer's is reasonably well understood. Nerve cells, especially within the cortex, which controls higher mental functions such as the memory, are destroyed by an excessive accumulation of protein in or around them. This process moves gradually through the cortex, although, inexplicably so far, the parts that control vision and normal movement are not affected.

What researchers are trying to discover is the combination or combinations of risk factors that trigger the build-up of these insoluble proteins and cause nerve cells to die. This can best be done through studies of elderly people.

With money raised by *The Times Christmas Appeal*, the research trust hopes to set up such studies, taking and storing blood samples from people of similar age and background. Given that a third of the population over 85 develops Alzheimer's, some of the group will inevitably become sufferers.

Work to date has suggested that there could be a close link between Alzheimer's risk factors and those associated with heart disease. Regular exercise, a lean diet, no smoking and moderation in alcohol consumption may therefore help to reduce the risk of developing the disease. Until the risk factors are clearly identified, however, no one can be certain.

By comparing the blood samples the trust hopes to be able to positively identify common factors that can point to those at risk. This work is expensive and will take at least ten years to produce results, but Dr Smith believes that by then there may be at least a partial answer to how to prevent the disease.



All change: the first station was like an Alaskan trapper's hut but the present one is a handsome example of half-timbering in the Cheshire style

The station with an aristocratic line

Marcus Binney on the rich history of a ducal railway whose buildings have had an award-winning revamp



The 4th duke: had the station built in 1902

A TELEVISION producer who is making a series of programmes on the House of Lords has won a prize for restoring the grandest ducal railway station in Britain.

Built for the exclusive use of the Dukes of Sutherland outside Dunrobin Castle in the Highlands, the station has remained family property. It was opened to the public on the nationalisation of the railways in 1948 and closed by Beeching in 1965. Now the restored Edwardian mock-Tudor station is on public view for the price of a 50p platform ticket, and Highland trains stop six times a day from May to September.

While numerous Victorian peers built private waiting rooms at local stations, and

often had the right to stop trains, the Dukes of Sutherland not only had their own station, but also an engine shed, tank engine and two private coaches. The 3rd duke was such a railway fanatic that he drove the tank engine himself and had an upholstered seat in front of the coal bunker for any passengers who wanted to join him on the footplate. Dismissed that the Highland line stopped short of his estates, the duke built 16 miles from Golspie to Helmsdale at his own expense. The line was later continued to Wick and Thurso.

His descendant, Lord Strathmeyer, who gave up his job as a detective constable in London to run the family estates, said: "The first station

white half-timbering in Cheshire style, with a platform canopy composed of trees with rustic gables supported on tree trunks.

Daniel Brittain, the television producer whose restoration has won an Ian Allen National Railway Heritage Award, said: "A few years ago I restored the station at Scotsdale further up the line as a house and persuaded the Sutherland estates. I could make a go of Dunrobin station. Windows were broken and floors were rotting but I have been able to repair it for less than £7,000. I fitted it out with railway exhibits, which visitors can see at any time simply by looking through the windows.

"It has been a great relief as, when I brought my bride to Scotsdale, she soon felt suffocated by all the railway memorabilia. Now it has gone to Dunrobin, everyone's happy."

Inside, the station contains the ducal waiting room, panelled in maple from the estate, and a rather plain staff waiting room with tongue and groove panelling.

The Sutherlands, notorious for the Highland clearances, were among the richest landowners in Britain. When their train, which they kept until 1948, arrived at Inverness, the coaches would be attached to a mainline train and taken to their estates in Staffordshire and on to London, where they entertained at Stafford House (today Lancaster House). Queen Victoria famously remarked to the duchess on arrival: "How nice to come from my home to your palace."

Railtrack has also won an award for work at Aviemore station, on the mainline from Perth to Inverness, where it has spent £2.1 million on restoring disused buildings and has given over an abandoned platform to the independent Strathspey railway.

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Man of habit is not yet ready to change his tune

Audrey Magee talks to Nobel laureate John Hume

JOHN HUME was in his pyjamas when he answered the door of his Donegal holiday home at noon on Saturday. His handlers had arranged a series of interviews with the Nobel Laureate, but Mr Hume, dishevelled and distracted, was oblivious.

He scurried off down the corridor of the attractive flat-roofed bungalow on the banks of Lough Foyle and returned in grey suit trousers, a red and white pin-striped shirt and red patterned tie.

"I'm a creature of habit. I always wear a suit — even on a Saturday." But Mr Hume's habits extend beyond his dress sense. For the past 30 years the nationalist leader has been saying the same thing, over and over, until he finally persuaded Sinn Féin, Unionists and the governments in Dublin, Washington and London to listen.

He is the great strategic thinker whose vision led to the 1994 IRA ceasefire and the current peace agreement.

"I have repeated myself a lot over the past 30 years — it must be the old teacher in me — but the problem in Northern Ireland has not changed. It is the same problem: therefore, it is the same solution."

His tenacity will be rewarded on Thursday when he and David Trimble, Northern Ireland's First Minister and Ulster Unionist Party leader, jointly receive the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo.

"Over the years, I have been asked if I think I should get the Nobel Peace Prize and I always said the only prize I was interested in was peace. I am very honoured, of course, but I see it as an award to all the people in Northern Ireland," he said.

Mr Hume, 61, and Mr Trimble will receive a gold medal and about £300,000 each. Mr Hume has "not an iota" of an idea about what to do with the money. "I haven't even told them where to send it. I don't even know how much it is because it's in kroners."

The greatest appeal of the prize is his guaranteed place in history, alongside his political idols Martin Luther King and John F. Kennedy. His hallway is lined with mementoes of the two given by their respective families, including a bust of Kennedy and a framed copy of King's 1963 speech at the Lincoln Memorial.

Hume, distracted as he again read King's words, said: "It's hard to think of myself like that." The road to the Nobel prize has been a difficult and treacherous one for Mr Hume, his wife, Pat, and their five children, now aged between 25 and 39.

Born into poverty in Londonderry in 1937, Mr Hume was the son of an unemployed shipyard worker who wrote letters for their illiterate neighbours in the mixed Glen district. "From childhood onwards, people's problems were normality to me."

He secured a scholarship to St Columba's College, where he flourished and attended Maynooth seminary in the Irish Republic. He returned to Londonderry, ostensibly to teach French and history at his old school but determined to help his community out of poverty.

He set up a credit union and circumvented the Unionist-dominated council to build better flats for Roman Catholics. He came to prominence in the civil rights movement of the late 1960s and co-founded the Social Democratic and Nationalist Party in 1970, standing for election all the while shunning rampant republicanism. His opposition to violence, and his vision of a future that included unionism, brought the wrath of the IRA on his family.

His children were beaten up coming home from school and "Traitor" was painted on their Londonderry house.

In 1987, the house was petrol-bombed, nearly killing Mrs Hume and their youngest daughter, Mo. They decided to build their house in Donegal as a refuge.

He was vilified when it emerged in the early 1990s that he was holding secret talks with Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin leader and then a political pariah. The opprobrium, particularly from his own party and his supporters in Dublin, was unbearable in the wake of the IRA bomb on the Shankill Road in 1993 that killed nine Protestants.

He collapsed and was admitted to hospital. "That took a lot out of me. You are a human being at the end of the day," he said. But the Nobel prize and 17 honorary doctorates from universities in Britain, Ireland, Europe and the United States vindicate his vision.

He is inundated with invitations from across the world to advise on peace strategies for places such as Cyprus and the Basque region. He is still involved with the negotiations at Stormont, but has left the nitty-gritty of working out the Good Friday agreement to Seamus Mallon, the Deputy First Minister and deputy SDLP leader, who is doing "fantastic work".

He is not particularly worried about the collapse of negotiations last week, believing the onus is on all politicians to work it out. He is under pressure from his family, who will be at Thursday's ceremony, to consider retiring. "I have not thought about it, but I suppose I will have to sometime."

He and Mrs Hume, who still works as a secretary and organises his life, hope to spend more time in Donegal, watching the fishing trawlers pass by the living room window and walking the stretch of beach between Moyville and Greencastle.

"I can't say I have enjoyed my life — how can you enjoy life when people around you are being murdered and shot? But it has been life."

'The only prize I was ever interested in was peace'

Hauliers attack 'stowaway' fine

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

ROAD hauliers have hit back at the Home Secretary over plans to fine the drivers of lorries used by illegal immigrants to sneak into Britain.

Nearly 5,000 people were found hidden in freight vehicles in the first eight months of this year and last week more than 100 stowaways were discovered in a container at Dartford, Kent.

Jack Straw said that drivers could stop the stowaways virtually overnight if they carried out simple checks on their lorries and added that he would go ahead with plans to fine the drivers £2,000 if illegal immigrants were found in their vehicles.

The Road Haulage Association condemned Mr Straw's plans as "outrageous and unworkable". A spokesman said: "You don't need to be a genius to work out that, if hauliers are about to be fined every time they voluntarily ap-

proach the authorities and discover the presence of illegal immigrants, they will simply resort to releasing the illegal immigrants without informing the police."

He added that the level of fines could put some smaller haulage firms out of business. The association is scheduled to hold talks with the Home Office and still hopes to change ministers' minds.

The Freight Transport Association said it was "surprised and disappointed" at plans for a £2,000 fine, which came at a time when it was involved in talks with the Home Office.

Its spokesman, Geoff Dossetter, said the association, which represents the owners and operators of 200,000 lorries, called for immediate talks on both sides of the Channel to come up with a solution.

There was a serious risk of Mr Straw losing the co-operation of drivers, who, he said, were the biggest victims of the problem.

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حکومت الوطن



John Hume near his home in Donegal: his family want him to retire, but he says he has not yet thought about it

'Ceasefire' groups still active, says RUC chief

By A CORRESPONDENT

MEMBERS of the terrorist group the Real IRA, which called a ceasefire after the public outcry over the Omagh bombing, are helping other republican paramilitaries who refuse to end their campaign, the RUC Chief Constable, Ronnie Flanagan, said yesterday.

He said he was concerned that the so-called Continuity IRA was receiving individual backing from the Real IRA, which carried out the attack in August that killed 29 people.

Air Flanagan said all paramilitary organisations still posed a threat, including those who called a cessation of military operations. "While they have significantly reduced their level of activity, not one of them has reduced their capability by one iota."

Speaking on BBC's *On The Record*, he said: "There is some blurring of the edges between all of these organisations. So even if one states a position, that is not to say that grassroots members won't assist other groups who are not in a cessation of violence."



On 15.12.98, Air Flanagan becomes a partner with the Qualifier Frequent Flyer programme.



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BY STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

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BY GILLIAN HARRIS
ISLAND CORRESPONDENT

meeting that they should start the process of closing the monastery. The community members have been declining over the years. The present numbers make it very difficult to maintain the full round of monastic life. In addition, the buildings are now too large for the community to maintain. The monks are in a financial de-



Within the coming weeks, the monastery administrators will close the 80-bed accommodation block for holidaymakers, the tourist and heritage centre, the Celtic craft shop, the Les Roumiers approved Abbot's Table restaurant and the meat and fish bar. About 30 people from the nearby village of Port Aulicourt, who were im-






After the monks depart, the abbey grounds will revert to




Since their arrival more than a century ago, the monks

Nairn Enterprise, said: "We are confident that this magnificent site at the south end of Loch Ness offers great potential for a more commercially focused operation." But for now the monks want to be left in

The association said that a pilot programme in the Veneto region of Italy has considerably reduced the number of deaths. All schoolchildren are tested by doctors each year and receive certificates confirming that they are fit to take part in school exercise.

TV FROM THE HEART


'Family values' Republican says he is gay

MICHAEL HUFFINGTON, one of the most peculiar American upstarts of the 1990s, has put an end to his own political career by declaring that he is homosexual.

Four years ago Mr Huffington, heir to a £70 million Texas natural gas fortune, spent more than a third of it on the most expensive US Senate race in history.

As a conservative Republican in favour of "a government that does nothing", he lost narrowly to California's Dianne Feinstein, then swiftly vanished from the headlines. He has since dabbled in film production and Greek Orthodoxy and, in a revelation likely to dominate Washington small talk for days, has started dating other men.

In a long interview in next month's *Esquire* magazine, Mr Huffington says he has "been through a long process of finding out the truth about me" and that "I know now that my sexuality is part of who I am".

Pundits and voters tried hard to find out the truth about the gangly, Stanford-educated millionaire during his 1994 campaign. They largely failed. Mr Huffington was at first written off as a nonentity in thrall to his charismatic Greek-born wife, Arianna Stassinopoulos Huffington.

Big-spending maverick of 1994 Senate race comes out, Giles Whittell writes

who is now divorced from him and who commented yesterday: "I wish Michael well; all that matters to me is that he is a good father to our children."

During their years together in the political spotlight, both Huffingtons extolled the virtues of the traditional nuclear family as the only possible basis for a civilised society. Michael's admission did not come as a complete surprise to his ex-wife, however. He reportedly told her about his past homosexual activity before they were married.

Mr Huffington would make "a good apprentice at McDonald's", one Republican critic sneered at the height of the Senate race. He ran a tightly orchestrated campaign with almost no live interviews, and was taken seriously by the national press only when saturation television advertising brought him a narrow lead in polls days before the election.

Rumours that Mr Huffington was gay circulated during the intensely negative campaign, but remarkably did not reach the public until yesterday.

Over an "extremely painful and difficult" series of interviews lasting 20 hours, he revealed that he first went out with other men in Houston in the 1970s, the writer David Brock told the *Washington Post*. Mr Huffington was "guilt-ridden and depressed" over his homosexuality, he told Mr Brock, and vowed privately to suppress it. He married Ms Stassinopoulos in 1986 and was elected to the US House of Representatives in 1992, representing a Los Angeles district.

As a Congressman, Mr Huffington spent little time in Washington and participated hardly at all in day-to-day politics, a tactic that was at least consistent with the stridently anti-government message he played to Californian voters in 1994. He was one of the few Republicans to back the idea of gays in the armed forces, but otherwise won lukewarm reviews from gay and lesbian activists.

He now insists he is glad to have lost his Senate race and is at peace with himself. "Mike Huffington wants you to know he's happy now; really, really happy," Mr Brock writes. He is no longer a Republican and may yet declare himself a Democrat, but said he would make no more public forays into politics.

Mr Brock, who is also gay, gained notoriety in Washington with his "Troopergate" story alleging that State troopers routinely procured women



Michael Huffington and his wife Arianna Stassinopoulos during the 1994 campaign

for Bill Clinton when he was Governor of Arkansas.

Mr Huffington drew a fine distinction between "homosexual" and "gay", a word he felt carried too much "baggage" and did not apply to him. But a quiet career supporting gay

causes still seems to be an option. In October he made a \$140,000 grant to the University of Southern California for the formation and teaching of graduate courses in sensitivity in reporting issues of sexual orientation.

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WORLD IN BRIEF

Mandela rejects general amnesty

Johannesburg: President Mandela has rejected calls for a general amnesty for human rights violators in the apartheid era who were implicated in the report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission last month (Ray Kennedy writes). "That debate is futile. I will resist that with every power that I have," he said in an interview published yesterday. Many African National Congress members in KwaZulu/Natal, where thousands died in battles with the Inkatha Freedom Party, want a general amnesty in the province to keep the uneasy truce. Mr Mandela said only individual amnesty appeals would be considered. The commission's amnesty committee has granted less than 200 pardons out of more than 7,000 applications.

Lubyanka protest

Moscow: Hundreds of victims of Communist repression gathered in Lubyanka Square here on Saturday to protest at the Duma's decision to resurrect the square's statue of Feliks Dzerzhinsky, founder of the secret police (Anna Blundy writes). Toppled in 1991 in a symbolic move to mark the end of the Soviet era, he has become a hero for those nostalgic for the old order. "Dzerzhinsky was an executioner," one old lady shouted. Many of the demonstrators spent much of their lives in the concentration camps set up by Dzerzhinsky himself.

Dissident's sister held

Riyadh: The sister of the exiled Saudi dissident, Muhammad al-Massari, has been detained in Saudi Arabia, the Islamic Observation Centre, a human rights group, said in a statement. Suha al-Massari, 33, was held in the Red Sea port of Jeddah on arrival from London last Monday and taken to Al-Hayer prison in the capital, Riyadh, it said. A Saudi official confirmed the detention and said authorities were questioning her about her brother's activities in London. (AP)

Hoffa Jr takes over

Washington: Jimmy Hoffa, right, is back. The son of the infamous union boss has won the leadership of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, the post that once made his father arguably the most powerful man in the United States after the President (Darrin Whitworth writes). Jimmy Hoffa Jr, 57, campaigned to return the union to the glory days of his father, who struck fear into the hearts of Americans in the late 1950s and 1960s.



Bride price tumbles

Dubai: Couples are to be fined 500,000 dirhams (£77,400) and possibly go to jail for having expensive weddings here. The *Gulf News* said the law, introduced by Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al-Nahyan, the Emirates President, was intended to make it possible for more young people to marry by making weddings affordable. Sheikh Muhammad bin Rakad al-Amiri, of the Emirates' Marriage Fund, which helps to pay for weddings, said the length of the jail term had not been set. (AP)



Chávez: favourite to win

Chávez rides high as 11 million Venezuelans vote

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI IN CARACAS

ELEVEN million Venezuelans went to the polls yesterday to decide whether the populist leader of a military coup, a Yale-educated free-market economist or a former Miss Universe would be their next President.

Opinion polls in the run-up to the elections indicated that Hugo Chávez, 44, a charismatic former paratrooper

who has vowed to "fry" corrupt politicians and delighted the disgruntled underclass with speeches condemning "savage capitalism", is the clear favourite to win.

Señor Chávez has discarded the army fatigues and face-paint image which made him famous when he attempted to topple one of Latin America's most stable democracies during a failed armed coup in February 1992.

His popularity has increased be-

cause most Venezuelans, disillusioned with a corrupt system and an economy in recession, see him as the catalyst for change.

The middle and upper classes, however, see him as a hot-headed demagogue and fear that he has a Jekyll and Hyde character. They also believe that his proposals to dissolve Congress and rewrite the Constitution represent a threat to a stable democracy.

Señor Chávez's closest rival is Hen-

rique Salas Rómer, a US-educated economist who was later Governor of the rich rural state of Carabobo. He is backed by Venezuela's largely discredited traditional parties, who have united in "defense of democracy".

Among the other candidates is Irene Sáez, a former beauty queen who has become the successful Mayor of Caracas, one of the richest districts in Caracas. Crowned Miss Universe in 1981, she is seen as a "Miss Clean".



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'Eye for an eye' attacks pit Muslim against Christian in Indonesia

AS CHRISTIANS around the world look forward to the celebration of Christmas and Muslims prepare to observe the holy month of Ramadan, the lead up to the religious holidays in Indonesia has been marred by a series of bloody clashes.

Yesterday about 600 Roman Catholics gathered outside the burnt remains of the Kare Catholic Church in Ujungpandang, on the island of Sulawesi. Riot guards stood by as the group read passages from the Bible. Three days earlier, a Muslim mob had broken into the church, smashed statues and set fire to pews and prayer books before using kerosene to ignite the church. It was the latest in a series of at least five "eye for an eye" attacks on churches or mosques sparked by a gang-fight between

Patricia Nunan in Jakarta reports on the religious battles tearing a nation apart

Muslims and Christians in the north Jakarta district of Ketapang that left 13 Christians dead and 22 churches burnt or looted. Rumours that a mosque that been burnt down provoked the rioting.

The wave of violence prompted Abdurrahman Wahid, the leader of Indonesia's largest Muslim group, Nhadiatul Ulama, to give a warning that the nation is heading for a "social revolution" because the Government of President Habibie has failed to resolve tensions between the two groups.

"President Habibie has no political sense," Mr Wahid was reported as saying. "Therefore what we can expect is social revolution — which is frightening."

More than 90 per cent of Indonesia's 200 million people are Muslim, making it the world's most

populous Muslim nation. But the country, which is spread over tens of thousands of islands, is also host to dozens of ethnic groups and religions.

Most analysts dismiss the theory that the Muslim-Christian clashes are a sign of a disintegrating national identity brought on by the country's continuing economic crisis and political upheaval. Most people believe that the religious violence was organised by an unidentified group bent on creating

unrest across Indonesia for its own political goals.

"The nation is still there," said Dr Indira Samego, a political analyst with the Indonesian Institute of Sciences in Jakarta. "It is the political elite that is taking advantage of the minor differences between people." This view is echoed by President Habibie, who condemned the clashes, which he blamed on unnamed "provocateurs".

The spectre of an unknown

group of thugs manipulating ethnic, religious and political differences in Indonesia to create chaos is frequently raised — but little evidence is ever presented to back up any of the dozens of conspiracy theories floated by the Government, political analysts and journalists.

Students and opposition leaders accuse former President Suharto, who was forced to resign last May, of being the so-called "invisible hand" behind a wave of murders in East Java.

White House on rack again over impeachment

FROM DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN WASHINGTON

AS IMPEACHMENT hearings reach their climax this week, the White House is more worried than it has been for weeks that President Clinton could become only the second President in history to be impeached by the House of Representatives and sent for trial in the Senate for high crimes and misdemeanours.

Enthusiasm for a deal that would have let Mr Clinton off with a vote of censure appears to have waned in recent days after he sent the House Judiciary Committee answers to 81 questions it had posed as part of its investigation of his conduct in the Lewinsky affair.

He angered Republicans and some Democrats by sticking to the legal hair-splitting he used to defend himself when interviewed before the grand jury.

The Judiciary Committee is certain to return at least one article of impeachment, probably relating to perjury, in a vote this week. The full House will then be required to vote on impeachment, which is the equivalent of indictment.

It looks unlikely that a trial in the Senate would result in Mr Clinton's removal from office, because a two-thirds



Clinton yesterday: head seen for more contrition

majority would be needed. But he would face a trial that could last months and enter history as only the second President to be impeached by the full House after Andrew Johnson, who escaped removal from office by one vote in the 1860s.

Ever since last month's mid-term elections, in which the American people indicated that they were fed up with the impeachment process, there have been moves to wrap it up quickly. Hopes grew among Democrats that Mr Clinton

could escape with a vote of censure. But he relies on the votes of a very few moderate Republicans and Democrats who are dithering.

Five Republicans have said they will vote against impeachment, but three Democrats have said they will vote in favour. Initially it appeared that 15 to 20 Republicans were likely to vote against. But as both sides tried to count the votes this weekend, it seemed just five votes one way or the other would decide the issue.

An alarmed White House has said it is "listening aggressively" to all proposals of forms of censure, perhaps including a fine.

Nevertheless, Mr Clinton's best hopes may rest on how his lawyers present his defence. Moderates on both sides of the House will be looking for more contrition. "This is a momentous week," said George Stephanopoulos, Mr Clinton's former adviser. "The House Judiciary Committee will vote to impeach and the White House is very worried, more than it has been in months. It is going to have to be more contrite, more open, and appeal to those moderate Republicans."



Albert Gore Sr. with his son Al, the Vice-President, who is expected soon to announce that he plans to run for president at the next election

Clinton mourns 'great patriot' as Gore's father dies

Washington: President Clinton paid tribute to Albert Gore Sr., father of the Vice-President, who has died, aged 90, weeks before his son's expected announcement that he will run for president (Damian Whitworth writes).

Mr Gore Sr., who represented Tennessee in the US House and Senate for 32 years, died on Saturday of natural causes at his home in Carthage, east of Nashville, with his son at his bedside.

The elder Gore was known

for his homespun, "hillbilly" style and for punctuating his speeches by playing the fiddle. He encouraged his son, who spent much of his youth living in Washington, to run for office but maintained a careful distance as he climbed up the

political ladder to within sight of the White House. On learning of his death, Mr Clinton praised Mr Gore Sr as "the embodiment of everything public service ought to be. He was a teacher, he was a progressive, he helped to connect the South

with the rest of America. The country has lost a great patriot, a great public servant, a man who was truly a real role model for young people like me in the South in the 1960s."

Obituary, page 25

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The 1999 BMW 7 Series

Demonic image does isolated Lafontaine a power of good

Britain's demonisation of Oskar Lafontaine has done him no harm. It has boosted his standing in France, extracted a declaration of support from Gerhard Schröder, the Chancellor, drawn attention to the British sense of Euro-exclusion and distracted the gaze from some of the minister's stranger economic pronouncements.

The vulnerability of Herr Lafontaine lies not in Europe but at home, where he is expected to honour his pledge to create quickly large numbers of jobs.

So far everything the minister has done — from closing tax loopholes for small firms to restoring Germany's gener-

INSIDE GERMANY



BY ROGER BOYES

ous sick-pay arrangements — has discouraged new hiring. Unemployment has been dropping for the past ten months, but this trend is likely to be reversed during the winter. Herr Schröder, who

says he wants to be judged on his ability to put Germany back to work, is going to have to explain the lengthening dole queues. If he is shrewd and ruthless enough, he will blame the lack of swift success on his Finance Minister.

Today unions and employers meet in Bonn to usher in a new "Alliance for Jobs". Helmut Kohl tried something similar in 1996; it failed because of union reluctance to accept cuts in sick pay. Yet many of the ideas then later became working practices due to separately negotiated deals. The general direction then, as now, was to cut social costs and make it cheaper and easier to hire German workers; the trade unions

therefore occupy the tightest corner. But Herr Lafontaine is also in a squeeze. He will have to find the money for whatever deals are struck.

Employers are demanding lower taxes so they can invest more in plants. They want to retain tax write-offs for medium-size business, make it easier to lay off workers in bad times and hire in good times. They will also be pressing for wage restraint. The unions want to redistribute work. That means a drastic reduction in overtime, more part-time work and reducing the age of male retirement to 60.

The Government is willing to give some ground to both

parties. It will agree to a state-financed programme creating 100,000 jobs for young people providing that employers commit themselves to establishing more apprenticeships. Labour Minister Walter Riester, a former trade union leader, agrees with the demands for a lower retirement age but wants to pay for it with a wage fund, jointly financed with employers.

Herr Schröder thinks more tax concessions can be made to small business. He wants the unions to promise wage restraint this year, while the unions do not want wage levels to form part of the Alliance for Jobs. Herr Lafontaine, by insisting that domestic demand should be boost-

ed, has encouraged unions to believe they can count on quiet government support for big wage claims this year.

There are other players in the Alliance. Commercial bankers will be prodded to generate more risk capital for entrepreneurs. The central bank, the Bundesbank, removed itself on Thursday from the firing line by slashing interest rates to 3 per cent. But since the negotiations are likely to continue well into the new year, Herr Lafontaine will use the Alliance to maintain public pressure on the European central bank.

The equations are not difficult to balance, but much depends on the personalities involved. The Alliance will be

chaired by Bodo Hombach, Herr Schröder's Minister without Portfolio. He argues that low-paid service jobs are better than no work at all.

The unions disagree and say that the modernisers are trying to steer towards an American model. Herr Riester has prickly relations with Klaus Zwickel, the engineering union chief. Almost everybody has problems with Hans-Olaf Henkel, the sharp-tongued leader of the Confederation of German Industry.

But the most isolated figure will be Herr Lafontaine. The unions are suspicious about his plans for flexible working schedules; the employers are uneasy, and not only because of his tax and

spend attitudes. He has, for example, been in the vanguard of the campaign to ban overtime, arguing that blanket prohibition would create 1.7 million jobs.

Yet he has never asked himself why firms prefer to pay for expensive overtime rather than hiring new workers. The answer is the key to structural problems in Germany and the restraints on employment. Yet Herr Lafontaine has no interest in deep structural reform.

The Alliance talks could well end up as a battle between modernisers and social conservatives, with Herr Lafontaine trying unsuccessfully to straddle both camps.

Le Pen heckled as he tries to gag Front rival

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE simmering rivalry between Jean-Marie Le Pen, the veteran National Front leader, and Bruno Mégret, his ambitious deputy, has boiled over into an open power struggle that threatens to tear the extreme-right party apart ahead of next year's European elections.

A story-faced M. Mégret, 48, refused to comment as he left the conference, but earlier he had delivered a clear threat to M. Le Pen: "Serious unrest has been developing for some time in the National Front. Militants are worried and asking many questions about the future of the movement."

"I will never leave the National Front," he added, in what many saw as a throwing down of the gauntlet to M. Le Pen.

The battle to lead the party has intensified since M. Le Pen's conviction for assault last month, which technically barred him from running in the European elections. M. Mégret made a bid to lead the party in those elections but M. Le Pen insisted that his wife, Jany, would run in his stead if he was disqualified.

M. Le Pen, 70, immediately suspended the conference and called a meeting of the party's politburo. He emerged after

nearly two hours to declare that "the trouble is over, we have re-established unity". But in a sign that his grip on the party may be slipping, M. Le Pen later announced that one of the expelled party members would be reinstated.

The spat was compounded when newspapers published a list of National Front candidates for the elections with M. Mégret's name way down the pecking order in tenth place. Next to his name were the words: "unless he quits".

M. Mégret has considerable support within the party and several defended the expelled party members. "We can't stand back with arms folded and watch such an injustice taking place," Franck Timmermans, the party's deputy secretary-general, said.

But the fight is likely to be bitter and bloody, as others stepped forward to support M. Le Pen. "Le Pen is the founder of the movement. These people should remember who made them what they are," declared Stéphane Durbel, a National Front regional councillor.

In the end, M. Le Pen successfully put off the ban on seeking elected office by lodging yet another legal appeal and announced that he would head the electoral list himself, but by then relations with his deputy were already acrid.

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Some of the 1,000 Knights of Malta, including Grand Master Andrew Bertie, centre foreground, celebrating Mass at St John's Cathedral

Malta's crusading Knights return home

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE Order of the Knights of Malta, the powerful, wealthy and secretive Roman Catholic body which traces its origins to the Crusades, has made a triumphant return to the island of Malta 200 years after it was expelled by Napoleon.

At a three-day meeting on Malta, the Knights — nowadays a charitable rather than a military organisation — declared they had "achieved

their dream" of securing a territorial foothold on the island.

In a ceremony attended by 1,000 senior members, Count Carlo Marullo, the order's Grand Chancellor, signed an agreement with Eddie Fenech Adami, the Prime Minister of Malta, granting the Knights a 99-year lease on Fort St Angelo, the scene of their greatest military triumph in 1565, when they held off a vastly superior Turkish force and stemmed the tide of Muslim expansion in the Mediterranean.

The Knights, also known as the Knights Hospitaller, paraded through Valletta in full black ceremonial robes embroidered with the white eight-pointed cross of the order, the most ancient order of chivalry.

They later celebrated Mass in the 16th-century Cathedral of St John, which contains frescoed ceilings, tombs, sculptures and paintings commemorating their 900-year history. The altarpiece, *The Beheading of St John the Baptist*, is by Caravaggio. "Never have so many Knights been gathered in Malta, not even in the golden days of the past," said Bishop Donato De Bonis, the order's prelate.

Count Marullo said the order, which will continue to maintain its headquarters in Rome, would exercise "sovereign rights" at Fort St Angelo,



Valletta's Fort St Angelo, on which the Knights have been granted a 99-year lease

which would be an "autonomous territory".

The order issues its own stamps and passports, has its own diplomatic service, and has permanent observer status at the United Nations. It would use its Maltese base for its "international humanitarian and cultural activities", the Grand Chancellor said.

The fort would be "a spiritual centre where the future leadership cadres of the order will be trained... we are launching a new kind of crusade".

Members of the 12,000-strong order, which is led by a Scottish Grand Master, Andrew Bertie, undertake to "defend the faith and care for the sick and needy".

The order was founded during the First Crusade in 1099. Its initial task was to care for pilgrims to the Holy Land, but it acquired a military function after the Muslim attack on Jerusalem of 1187, when the Knights moved to Acre, Palestine. Under further fierce Saracen onslaughts, the order with-

drew to Cyprus in 1290 and to Rhodes in 1310, before settling in Malta in 1530 at the invitation of the Emperor Charles V. In 1565 500 Knights, with 8,000 Maltese soldiers, held off a Turkish armada of 300 ships and 40,000 men. They were forced out by Napoleon's seizure of Malta in 1798.

The order's leaders take monastic vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. The Knights maintain hospitals worldwide and aid missions in Africa, the Balkans and Latin America.



Julia Ormond, star of *The Barber of Siberia*, and the film-maker Nikita Mikhalkov, thought too jolly by Russians

Russian epic misses out on Oscars

NIKITA MIKHAILOV'S lavish new epic *The Barber of Siberia* will not be nominated for best foreign language film at this year's Oscars because his Three T studio has broken the rules.

The most opulent Russian film since *Burnt by the Sun* will be denied its chance for an Oscar, *Kommersant* daily reported, because it was not shown to the Russian public for a minimum of one week. The studio claimed that the film had indeed been shown for seven days at a Moscow cinema, but it transpired that the only Russian screening was held on October 29 and was attended largely by potential distributors. The film is set for international release after its Russian premiere next month.

Inspired by the massive international success of the Oscar-winning *Burnt by the Sun*, Mikhalkov has spent the past two years filming a Russian epic, jointly financed by Russia, France and Italy, shot mostly in English and starring Richard Harris, Julia Ormond and Oleg Menshikov, a Russian heart-throb. The film is a spectacular saga set at the beginning of the century when an eccentric Irish-American, Richard Harris, sets out to make his fortune by felling the forests of Siberia with his terrifying new contraption, "the barber".

A film of *Gone with the Wind* proportions, *The Barber of Siberia* has been criticised by Russians who believe Mikhalkov has sold his soul to the West and become the Russian equivalent of Merchant-Ivory. Although he has won countless awards for his films over the years, he is thought to have been leaning heavily westwards and his new film will have to be dubbed into Russian for its grand Kremlin premiere.

Anna Blundy reports on a Siberian saga that Moscow has yet to see

Many Russians find Mikhalkov's films too jolly, yet by Western standards *Burnt by the Sun* was easily one of the bleakest films of 1993. In Russia it is almost obligatory for all the protagonists to die horribly. Mikhalkov describes his film unapologetically, though with a wry smile, as "a Siberian Titanic".

Stroking his impressive moustache in the Three T headquarters by Moscow's Patriarch's Ponds, Mikhalkov, 53, tapped the side of his nose and laughed when asked how he obtained permission to film in front of the Kremlin, an unprecedented event. "I am the first person ever to have extinguished the stars of the film critic," he said. "He is God." said one film critic. "He can do anything in Russia."

Confident, charismatic and a committed Slavophile from an Orthodox family, Mikhalkov has made a film that does for Russia what David O. Selznick did for Atlanta, Georgia.

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'Hit squad' fear casts a shadow on Clinton visit

AN ADVANCE team of senior US officials was yesterday completing the details of this weekend's three-day Middle East visit by President Clinton, which is rapidly turning from a public-relations dream into a security and diplomatic nightmare.

The trip, due to include Gaza and Bethlehem as well as Israel, is the first by a US President to the autonomous Palestinian areas, and as such riddled with questions of symbolism and protocol — with Israeli officials reportedly "shocked" at the alleged preferential treatment being given to Palestinian demands.

In addition, as well as the obvious security risks posed by anti-American Islamic extremists, whose main stronghold is the Gaza Strip, there are also fears that pro-Iraqi militants — or even an Iraqi hit squad — might attempt an attack on the presidential motorcade.

Many Palestinians were angered by recent US threats of airstrikes against Baghdad and have long sided with President Saddam Hussein, whom they regard as a hero for his

Israelis 'shocked' at favour shown to Palestinians

Christopher Walker writes

willingness to stand up to the West and for targeting Israel with 39 Scud missiles in 1991. Ahmed Tibi, an aide to Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, refused to answer questions about a potential Israeli-backed attack on Mr Clinton during his visit. "People will be able to make their views known," Mr Tibi told Israel's Foreign Press Association. "But anything against the law will be stopped."

Even before Mr Clinton and his 1,000-strong delegation have arrived to take over the Jerusalem Hilton, the visit has become the focus for a hunger strike by hundreds of Palestinians demanding prisoner-of-war status in Israeli prisons and accompanying violence

on the streets of the West Bank and east Jerusalem.

After a televised attack by a Palestinian mob on two Israelis near Ramallah last week, implementation of the interim peace accord reached at the Wye talks in October — for which the visit was originally seen as the triumphant conclusion — has been suspended by the Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu.

Such is the extent of ill-feeling and mutual suspicion, with US officials expressing exasperation with both sides, that the Tel Aviv paper *Masruv* reported: "Over the weekend, officials were beginning to voice their assessment that the Americans might weigh postponing the presidential visit if no progress was made in the diplomatic area and the deadlock in the implementation process of the Wye agreement was not broken."

To try to achieve an urgent breakthrough, Dennis Ross, the special US peace envoy, will return here tomorrow. Both the Palestinians and Israelis are angered by the way in which Washington has re-



A Palestinian holds a picture of her father, held in an Israeli jail, in a sign of solidarity with hunger-striking inmates

sponded to the escalating Palestinian prisoners dispute, in which Mr Arafat insists that so-called "security prisoners" make up most of the 750 released at Wye, while Israel flatly refuses to free any member of Hamas or Arab "with Jewish blood on his hands". Mr Tibi insisted that in a private conversation at Wye, Mr Clinton had suggested that the "Irish precedent" be followed in determining the prisoner release issue, while the US has belatedly backed the Israeli stand that it has the sole right to select those freed.

A senior Israeli official yesterday told *The Jerusalem Post* that the Americans had taken too long to clarify the matter and had been equivocal. Accusing the Clinton Administration of "appeasement towards the Palestinians," the official added: "They (the Americans) obviously do not remember the 1930s, and have not studied the history books."

The official added that problems already surrounding the Clinton visit — such as his desire to fly into Gaza's new Palestinian airport on Air Force One — are part of a general US attempt "to snub the Israelis while carrying out, basically, a state visit to the Palestinian Authority".

Allies caution US over escort for Serbs

FROM TOM WALKER IN PRISTINA

BRITISH and other European diplomats in Kosovo have criticised a US policy of providing escort vehicles to Serb police convoys travelling through territory controlled by ethnic Albanian guerrillas, and have given a warning that there is a danger of conflict between the Kosovo Liberation Army and international monitors.

In the past month, bright orange American Humvee military jeeps have become a familiar sight at the head of columns of Serb police trucks and armoured personnel carriers, as they bring food, supplies and shift replacements to isolated Serb outposts in Albanian territory.

The Americans argue that their presence discourages the KLA from firing on

the police convoys, and that in turn denies President Milosevic of Yugoslavia an excuse for a renewed offensive against guerrilla bases in central Kosovo. Local KLA commanders, however, said their patience is being stretched to the limit.

"It's naive short-termism on the Americans' part to believe that this helps," said a senior source in the Pristina office of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, which is in the process of taking overall command of the Kosovo Verification Mission. "You only achieve ceasefires through political will; rather than any physical presence. The Americans are falling into the same traps that befell them in Bosnia, where they seemed to think that if you provided one soldier for every refugee they'd go home."

The dispute centres on the former KLA

distribution centre of Malisevo, where the Serbs are occupying the police station for the first time in a decade. During the autumn they systematically destroyed much of the town's market and commercial base, with the clear intention of eradicating Malisevo's strategic importance to the guerrillas.

"For as long as they are there, we will attack them," said a KLA commander, who pointed out that there are no Serb civilians for miles around. For the Serbs, aided by the American presence, it is simply a case of grimly clinging on for as long as the supply convoys can reach them.

"I think that we should watch the police convoys and patrols from a distance, but not become more involved than that," said Duncan Bullivant, the OSCE spokesman in Pristina.

Green veto on Venice dam

Rome: An Italian government report on the protection of Venice will this week oppose the construction of a €1.5 billion floating dam, according to Italian press reports (Richard Owen writes).

The scheme has been approved by the Ministry of Public Works and a committee of five international experts. But the barrier, which would inflate during high tides to block the three entrances to the Venetian lagoon from the sea, is opposed by Greens at national level and in Venice council.

Bomb alerts blight St Petersburg poll

FROM ANNA BLUNDY IN MOSCOW

VOTING in St Petersburg yesterday for the city's legislative assembly was marred by bomb scares in at least three polling stations.

The election campaign, brought to international attention by the murder of Galina Starovoiitova, the pro-democracy politician and resident of the city, included contract killings and allegations of vote-buying. The city's electoral commission expects a turnout of 35 per cent.

The liberal parties supported by Mrs Starovoiitova say their opponents are backed by the criminals who killed her and accuse them of an all-encompassing "dirty tricks" campaign. Polling stations were heavily guarded yesterday, the first of two rounds of voting.

The liberals want a city charter limiting the powers of Vladimir Yakovlev, the city Governor, over the legislature. Mr Yakovlev has denied supporting anti-charter groups.

Spanish flag is raised on Rock

By DOMINIQUE SEARLE IN GIBRALTAR

SPAIN'S flag cast a shadow over the Rock for the first time since its capture in 1704 yesterday when right-wing Spanish extremists tore down the Union Jack and raised the red-and-yellow colours on Gibraltar's Moorish Castle.

Royal Gibraltar Police arrested seven men from the little-known Alliance for National Unity (AUN), including its leader, Ricardo Saez de Ynestrosa.

The flag flew for ten minutes as furious Gibraltarians called the police and heckled the group. Other group members set up a protest on the Spanish side of the frontier with Gibraltar behind a banner declaring "Gibraltar — Spanish".

The protest was timed to coincide with the 20th anniversary of the Spanish Constitution. Leaflets handed out by the group said the constitution demands territorial unity.

The incident comes at a tense moment for Gibraltar and it will embarrass the Spanish Government, which has been planning to get tough on Gibraltar.

Last week Willy Mayer, a Spanish MP of the United Left, broke the confidentiality of a briefing by Abel Matutes, the Spanish Foreign Minister.

He revealed that there was a "Plan B" under which Spain, sensing failure of proposals for temporary co-sovereignty, would enforce a "double filter" for traffic at the frontier as well as EU-based sanctions against Gibraltar.

Peter Caruana, Gibraltar's Chief Minister, said: "If Señor Matutes believes that, by threatening with strong measures, the Gibraltar Government or Britain is going to change its stand as regards sovereignty he is very mistaken."

The GCC, as it is now universally known, opens its 19th Summit meeting in Abu Dhabi today. It was founded almost two decades ago. It reflected the common inheritance, culture and beliefs of its six member states. It was created to further cooperation between them, and to aid in the harmonisation of their economies, legislation and diplomacy. It has two main tasks.

First, to provide a common forum for the efforts of its members to maintain stability in a volatile region. Secondly, to underpin the drive to establish a GCC free trade area, in which citizens, capital and goods can circulate freely.

The first GCC summit was held in May, 1981, against the backdrop of the Iran-Iraq war and the strains of rapid industrialisation. Most Arab endeavours to attain a measure of political unity had failed. Many were sceptical that the infant GCC would develop a mature role.

That it has done so is due to the powerful ties of kinship that have long linked its member states. The societies of the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar and Kuwait are based on the Islamic faith. They share common traditions, values and aspirations. The GCC is an expression of that common will.

The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990 was the most severe test of common purpose. Members regarded it as an aggression against them all and GCC countries played a critical role in the liberation of Kuwait. The crisis shaped the GCC as an effective regional power in preserving peace and security.

It is also, however, an economic bloc of

"If we have become an organisation to be reckoned with, it is because we are built on the bedrock of the unity and shared purpose of our members"

H.E. Sheikh Jamil Ibrahim Al-Jaber, Secretary-General

The 19th Summit of the Gulf Cooperation Council Abu Dhabi 7 to 9 December

global significance. Nearly half of the world's proven oil reserves lie beneath the soil or the territorial waters of the GCC. The successful implementation of the free internal market, under a Unified Economic Agreement, has made the GCC one of the world's largest trading blocs. Customs tariffs have been abolished on GCC-made products, and there is free movement of citizens, jobs and capital between member states.

The formal title of the GCC is the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf. Its members are the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar and Kuwait. The United Arab Emirates is the federation of Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Ajman, Sharjah,



Umm Al Quwain, Ras Al Khaimah and Fujairah.

GCC countries have some 45 per cent of the world's proven oil reserves, and 15 per cent of gas reserves. The region is a world leader in petrochemicals, but diversification is rapidly reducing dependence on oil-based industries. Indeed, tourism is one of the fastest growing newcomers, a tribute to excellent communications and infrastructure, high health standards, and the preservation of a unique cultural heritage.

Policy guidelines are laid down by the GCC's Supreme Council. This is made up of the six heads of state. The presidency rotates each year. The Council meets at an annual summit in December, this year in Abu Dhabi, and at other times if needed.

Government ministers, and ministerial committees,

meet regularly under the aegis of the GCC. Experts from individual countries are encouraged to exchange ideas and information.

The GCC secretariat general, under Sheikh Jamil Ibrahim Al-Jaber, is headquartered in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. It has a dual role. It examines issues of common interest and drafts policy proposals in close cooperation with member states. It also helps to ensure that the experience of one member state is absorbed by the others.

It is charged with encouraging uniform regulations in all major areas of economic and social policy. Individual departments deal with political, economic, military, legal, financial and administrative affairs. Much emphasis is placed on environmental and human resources.

A GCC Permanent Mission to the European Union is maintained in Brussels under an ambassador. The EU is the largest trading partner, and discussions for a free trade agreement between the EU and the GCC have been progressing for several years. Close relations are maintained with the United Nations and its agencies. The courtesy meeting between the UN and GCC Secretary-Generals at the General Assembly meeting in New York each September is well-established as a useful opportunity to discuss developments in the GCC region.

Considerable progress has been made in building common policies and institutions. The Gulf Standards Organisation approves common GCC standards. A Patent Office is being formed to standardise patent regulations. The Gulf Investment Corporation finances development projects. A GCC Commercial Arbitration Centre is used in trade disputes. There are no longer tariffs on GCC-made goods in the Free Trade Area. Each head of state has endowed a chair at the Gulf University in Bahrain. A regional electricity grid is being pioneered.

EUROLAND: IS THE GRASS GREENER?

We work longer hours for less

EURO LIVES

With the Euro debate growing fiercer, our survey of the 15 EU member states shows that Britain is one of the most expensive and exhausting places in which to live. From the cost of cinema tickets to doctors' working hours, we are near the bottom of the league. Jon Ashworth reports

Discord once again rules relations between Britain and its senior European partners after France and Germany unfurled their full federalism banner last week. Few can have failed to register the tabloid hysteria and angry broadsheet rumblings at plans hatched by the EU's big two for a Community-wide common tax system.

Forget about the right of veto, said Oskar Lafontaine, Germany's new Finance Minister. "It is my personal view that we eventually must go to qualified majority voting on the sensitive issue of taxes".

His lesson on the harsh reality of EU membership has given a distinctly hollow ring to pledges from Tony Blair and his Iron Chancellor that Britain would decide its own economic destiny. Already Europhobes are warning of the inexorable slide into federalism. Those once well-disposed towards the EU and with even closer links with Europe have begun to question the value of continued membership. It comes at such a high cost, they argue, and yet the benefits seem to dwindle by the day.

Authoritative research shows that, by and large, we work longer hours for less money than our fellow Europeans. "And now the French and Germans want to take even more from us," the sceptics' argument goes. "Who in their right mind would join such a club?"

Or would monetary union bring our standards in line with our better-off European counterparts?

So, how does Britain rate? A country-by-country survey shows that we work harder for less, and pay prices which would shock our neighbours.

It is hardly a secret that cars and alcohol can be bought more cheaply across the Channel, but the differences in lifestyle run more deeply and widely than any of us might imagine. From shopping to eating out, to simply getting around town, the UK is near the bottom of the league.

Take a simple example: the price of a Fiat Punto. Of the 15 EU member countries, only Ireland, Denmark, Finland and Austria are more expensive, and bear in mind that average salaries in those countries far outstrip our own. The cheapest Puntos are in Germany and France, where the model sells for about £5,400. It costs £6,200 in Italy and £7,000 in Spain, but £7,834 in the UK. In Ireland, the price jumps to £8,840, while in Denmark a Punto costs £11,140.

Filling up costs more, too, because of high UK direct taxes on petrol. Germany works out the cheapest at £19.65 for a 47-litre tank, compared with £30.50 in the UK. Fill up in Spain and it will cost you about £20. A tank of petrol in France, Italy and Ireland costs around £27 to £28.

And what about day-to-day living? Are those interminable traffic jams and overcrowded trains a peculiarly British experience?

We asked our European correspondents to list journey times for a ten-mile trip into the city centre, both by public transport and by car. Here, too, Britain bombs.

In Spain, it works out at 20 minutes whichever method you use. In Britain, that ten-mile journey will take about an hour.

The only country with arguably worse public transport than Britain is Italy, where the same journey can take up to 90 minutes. But the Ital-

ians take only 45 minutes or so by car — a reflection on the way they drive. Our correspondent in France cited 25 minutes for public transport, but allowed anything from 30 to 90 minutes when travelling by car.

Cinema prices, too, vary dramatically. Tickets for two adults and two children at a UK cinema cost about £26 — twice as much as in Spain. Ireland is fair value at £15, while tickets in France and Italy cost £17. In Germany, it will cost you £18.

Italy is the place to buy Levi's — just £32 compared with £50 in the UK. The next most expensive is France (£47), followed by Spain (£48) and Germany (£43). Ireland is the most expensive place to buy a man's suit — £245 against £200 in Spain. France and the UK are the same (£160), while Italy is cheapest (£102).

Not only do we pay more for goods and services, but invariably we work longer hours. A solicitor in the UK can expect to work between 50 and 60 hours a week, compared with 35 hours in Italy. A junior doctor in the UK officially spends 56 hours a week on duty and 72 hours a week on call, but invariably ends up working the full 72 hours, according to the British Medical Association.

In Italy, a junior doctor is likely to

work about 36 hours a week, though a doctor in Ireland works 65 hours. There is also a large differentiation for teachers, who might work 55 hours a week in the UK, compared with 15 to 18 hours a week in France.

Finally, the house test. How much for a modern, three-bedroom house with a garage and small garden in an upmarket London suburb? One has to generalise, but the findings point to a wide divergence in house prices across Europe. The UK is the most expensive — at £320,000 — compared with £200,000 in Ireland and £160,000 in France and Germany. Spain is the cheapest at £120,000.

The UK is also most expensive for rentals, with the same house costing £1,800 a month to rent, compared with £600 in Spain. The same is true on a range of fronts, from haircuts to sandwiches and buying groceries.

But David Formosa of Sedgwick Noble Lowndes, which charts standards of living across Europe, says: "The British generally have more in their pocket after deductions. When the pound is strong, the standard of living for UK residents is better, but it means something only when you are buying from abroad or travelling." Economists, meanwhile, are eager-

ly anticipating the outcome of the euro taking root on January 1. No euro notes or coins will be in circulation until 2002, but the effects could be felt far sooner. It will trigger a convergence of prices, forcing steep rises in countries such as Spain and Portugal while reducing prices in Finland, Austria and Germany.

The UK, outside the main 11, may find it impossible to resist the advance of the so-called "creeping" euro, in which downward pressure on prices will migrate across the Channel. But all this should be good for consumers, says Leo Marun, an economist at KPMG: "There will be cheaper goods coming in and a better marketplace for UK companies to sell into."

Personal computers, for instance, are likely to be up to a third cheaper in euroland, while CDs may be 15 per cent cheaper, and this is bound to put pressure on UK retailers.

"The threat is that if the UK stays out long-term, we will see less competitive benefits," says Mr Marun. "Companies will not be under the same pressure to pass on benefits to consumers."

But none of this will happen overnight and, for now, the UK remains one of Europe's most expensive — and frustrating — places in which to live and work.



Paris match: catching up with the news and gossip over a sandwich and coffee in France is cheaper than in Denmark, The Netherlands or Greece

SPAIN

THEY went to Madrid to escape. Paul and Susan House have lived there for nearly 20 years and their daughters — Clea, 15, and Elisa, 12 — were born in the Spanish capital and have been brought up there.

"We came here to get away from the three-day working week and the strikes of the late 1970s," says Paul, a writer and translator. "I think we are better described as immigrants than expats."

Susan, who runs her own language academy and writes textbooks for Spanish schools, "We came in search of a better life."

Both are satisfied that they have achieved this aim. Not only is their standard of living better than in the UK, but they feel glad that their daughters are growing up in Spain.

The couple recently took the children out of fee-paying English schools in Madrid and put them into a state secondary school that is within walking distance of their home.

"I am happy with the secondary education, although it is demanding," says Susan. "Most of all I am pleased they have experienced growing up in a place where children are so well treated and where the move through adolescence is so natural. You don't have to worry about whether the streets are full of pervers."

Paul, who has diabetes, says the state health system has cared for him well, although he feels it is slow and over-bureaucratic. The family abandoned a private health scheme after it failed to treat Paul properly. "It would take a lot of money to lure us back to England now," says Paul. "Here we

earn less, but we live better."

They rent a centrally located, four-bedroom apartment for £500 a month but they also own a four-bedroom country house in a village which is just 90 minutes' drive from Madrid. Their spacious weekend retreat cost just £25,000.

The natural affability and openness of Spaniards, as well as Madrid's cloudless skies, have won over the House family. But cer-



The House family

tain cultural differences are hard to swallow. "I grew up believing that rules were to be obeyed," says Paul. "That is not the case here."

The couple insist, however, on their daughters going to English universities. While Clea and Elisa are looking forward to living in England as students, they do not believe growing up in the UK would have been better. "Perhaps it would be nice to have a bigger choice of concerts to go to," says Clea. "But that's all."

GILES TREMLETT

THE EUROPEAN LIFESTYLE: HOW THE COUNTRIES COMPARE														
	Germany	France	Italy	Spain	UK	Ireland	Netherlands	Denmark	Austria	Greece	Finland	Belgium	Luxembourg	Portugal
Selfish's average income	35	32	34	37	50-60	80	45	37	40	45	40	45	45	60
Junior doctor's average hours	46	50-60	36	60	72 max	65	65	37	60	40	36	55	45	60
Teacher's average hours	38	15-18	30	32	55	35	40	37	30	25	30	40	40	35-40
Day school (primary, annual)	free	£1,470	£3,280	£3,000	£6,375	£1,850	£8,000	£534 to £1,220	£1,220	free	£2,360	£2,034 to £2,034	£2,034	£3,640
Day school (secondary, annual)	free	£1,981	£5,000	£3,500	£8,940	£2,000	£8,000	£1,335 to £2,040	£2,040	free	£2,460	£2,733 to £2,733	£2,733	£5,825
Boarding (primary, annual)	£225 to £2,195	£3,275	none	£3,000	£13,290	£4,500	none	£2,500 to £2,500	£2,500	none	none	£1,198 to £1,198	none	£4,078
Boarding (secondary, annual)	£2,195	£3,958	none	£3,500	£13,590	£3,500	none	£3,050 to £3,050	£3,050	none	none	£1,407 to £1,407	£1,392	£6,261
Income tax	26-63%	33%	18-45%	top 56%	top 4%	26-48%	up to 52%	up to 50%	10%	5-45%	45-61.5%	up to 52.5%	0-48%	16-40%
Healthcare	13.4% employer pays half	8.35% of salary	free	free	free	free	free	free	up to 30% of income	free	free	free	free	free
Cost of a Fiat Punto	£6,380	£5,475	£6,200	£7,000	£7,834	£8,840	£7,160	£11,140	£8,200	£6,080	£8,320	£7,160	£8,908	£6,514
Petrol (47 litres)	£19.65	£27.18	£27	£20	£30.5	£27	£25	£27	£22.5	£13	£30	£25	£28.92	£27.5
One-month travel pass	£17.86	£26.87	£18	£25	£83.80	£42	£18	£58	£24	£36	£24.4	£11.42	£8.90	£13
3-bedroom house with garage/garden	£160,000	£159,775	£146,000	£120,000	£320,000	£200,000	£200,000	£85,475 to £150,000	£202,000	£101,000	£101,000	£142,860 to £142,860	£204,285	£308,480
Beer (pint)	71p	£1.04	55p	37p	£1.59	89p	40p	44p	35p	£1.11	£1.12	63p	87p	23p
Cigarettes (20)	£1.07	£1.98	£2.03	£1.16	£3.28	£3.10	£1.90	£2.85	£2.07	£1.31	£2.50	£2.10	£2.20	£1.42
Cinema (2 adults & 2 children)	£12.26	£17	£17	£13	£28	£14	£20	£14	£16	£16	£13	£14	£14	£12.50
Pizza with wine (4 adults)	£26	£22.37	£44	£25	£40	£23	£40	£27	£26	£20	£25	£22	£25	£18.29
Haircut (men)	£10	£13	£15	£8	£29	£10	£30	£27	£25	£7	£17.85	£11	£17.85	£6
Haircut (women)	£14	£22	£27	£8	£37	£20	£30	£18	£35	£7	£17.85	£14	£26.75	£8.74
3-minute local phone call	11p	14p	55p	6p	12p	20p	7p	4p	16p	3p	35p	8p	8p	9p

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EUROLAND: IS THE GRASS GREENER?

money than the rest of Europe

Below we chart the cost of being European: Greece has free boarding schools, Denmark allows 35 days' leave. Germany has the cheapest cigarettes

- 1** Fiat Punto £9,200
2 Petrol for Punto £22.50
3 Cinema for two adults and two children £18
4 Pizza and wine x 4 adults £25
5 One-month travel pass £24
6 Working hours: doctor 60, solicitor 40, teacher 30
7 Holidays: private sector 35 days, public sector 35 days
8 Ham and cheese sandwich plus coffee £2.75
9 Groceries: cat food 50p, bananas £1.25, tomatoes £1, chicken £2.50, olive oil £2, instant coffee £3, ice-cream £1.50, cornflakes £1.75, beer 3p, cigarettes £2.07
10 3-bedroom suburban house £50,000
11 Haircut men £25, women £35
12 Levi's £45, shirt £15
13 3-minute local phone call 1p
14 Private school primary £1,220, secondary £2,040
15 University free
16 Healthcare 30 per cent of income
17 Income tax 50 per cent

- 1** Fiat Punto £7,160
2 Petrol for Punto £25
3 Cinema for two adults and two children £13
4 Pizza and wine x 4 adults £22
5 One-month travel pass £11.49
6 Working hours: doctor 55, solicitor 45, teacher 40
7 Holidays 4-6 weeks
8 Ham and cheese sandwich plus coffee £4.46
9 Groceries: bananas £1.41, tomatoes £1.59, chicken £2.19, fish £7.15, olive oil £2.30, coffee £4.80, ice-cream £3.85, beer 3p, cigarettes £2.10, cornflakes £1.41
10 3-bedroom suburban house £142,850
11 Haircut men £11, women £14
12 Levi's £45, shirt £29
13 3-minute local phone call 9p
14 Private school £578 to £911
15 University fees means-tested, £219 to £458
16 Healthcare free
17 Income tax up to 52 per cent

- 1** Fiat Punto £1,740
2 Petrol for Punto £27
3 Cinema for two adults and two children £16
4 Pizza and wine x 4 adults £25
5 One-month travel pass £35
6 Working hours: doctor 37, solicitor 37, teacher 37
7 Holidays 5 weeks
8 Ham and cheese sandwich plus coffee £4.45
9 Groceries: bananas 8p, tomatoes 8p, chicken £2.25, fish £1.78, olive oil £1.78, coffee £1.78, ice-cream £1.78, beer 44p, cigarettes £2.25, cornflakes £1.34
10 3-bedroom suburban house £53,475
11 Haircut men £9, women £16
12 Levi's £35, shirt £11
13 3-minute local phone call 4p
14 Day school £178 to £946
15 University: free
16 Healthcare: free
17 Income tax approx 50 per cent

- 1** Fiat Punto £8,320
2 Petrol for Punto £30
3 Cinema for two adults and two children £21
4 Pizza and wine x 4 adults £15
5 One-month travel pass £21.40
6 Working hours: doctor 38, solicitor 40, teacher 30
7 Holidays 30 days
8 Ham and cheese sandwich plus coffee £3.70

- 9** Groceries: cat food 70p, bananas £1.16, tomatoes £1.90, chicken £1.52, olive oil £3.80, fish £5.80, instant coffee, £4.75, ice-cream £1.01, cornflakes £2.10, beer £1.12, cigarettes £2.50
10 3-bedroom suburban house £101,000
11 Haircut men £17.85, women £17.85
12 Levi's £35, shirt £12
13 3-minute local phone call 35p
14 Private school primary £2,500, secondary £720-820
15 University free
16 Healthcare free
17 Income tax 45-61 per cent

- 1** Fiat Punto £5,475
2 Petrol for Punto £27
3 Cinema for two adults and two children £17
4 Pizza and wine x 4 adults £22
5 One-month travel pass £28.87
6 Working hours: doctor 50-60, solicitor 38, teacher 15-18
7 Holidays 5 weeks
8 Ham and cheese sandwich plus coffee £3.20
9 Groceries: tomatoes £2.19, chicken £3.83, coffee £2.53, beer £1.04, cigarettes £1.98, cornflakes £1.24, fish £3.85
10 3-bedroom suburban house £158,775
11 Haircut men £18, women £22
12 Levi's £47, shirt £35
13 3-minute local phone call 14p
14 Primary school £1,470, secondary £1,880
15 University fees £287 under 20, £553 over 20
16 Healthcare 5.35 per cent of salary
17 Income tax 33 per cent

- 1** Fiat Punto £5,980
2 Petrol for Punto £18.85
3 Cinema for two adults and two children £18
4 Pizza and wine x 4 adults £25
5 One-month travel pass £17.86
6 Working hours: doctor 48, solicitor 55, teacher 38
7 Holidays 20-30 days
8 Ham and cheese sandwich plus coffee £1.78
9 Groceries: bananas £1.43, tomatoes £1.07, chicken £3.57, olive oil £2.68, fish £4.29, instant coffee £2.80, ice-cream £2.80, cornflakes £1.07
10 3-bedroom suburban house £144,000
11 Haircut men £16, women £27
12 Levi's £32, shirt £18
13 Local phone call peak time 65p
14 Private school primary £3,280, secondary £5,000
15 University fees means-tested
16 Healthcare free
17 Income tax 18.5-45 per cent

- 1** Fiat Punto £6,080
2 Petrol for Punto £11
3 Cinema for two adults and two children £16
4 Pizza and wine x 4 adults £20
5 One-month travel pass £18
6 Working hours: doctor 45, solicitor 45, teacher 25
7 Holidays 20-30 days
8 Ham and cheese sandwich plus coffee £3.57
9 Groceries: tomatoes 9p, chicken £2.22, fish £1.21, olive oil, £3.13, instant coffee £2.22, beer £1.11, cornflakes £2.53, ice cream £2.02
10 3-bedroom suburban house £202,000
11 Haircut men £7, women £7
12 Levi's £28, shirt £14.58
13 3-minute local phone call 3p
14 Day and boarding school free
15 University free

- 16** Healthcare free
17 Income tax 5-45 per cent

- 1** Fiat Punto £8,200
2 Petrol for Punto £27
3 Cinema for two adults and two children £17
4 Pizza and wine x 4 adults £24
5 One-month travel pass £18
6 Working hours: doctor 38, solicitor 38, teacher 30
7 Holidays 25 days
8 Ham and cheese sandwich plus coffee £2.70
9 Groceries: tomatoes £1.50, chicken £2.55, olive oil £1.82, fish £10.55, instant coffee £2.62, ice-cream £3, cornflakes £1.37, beer 5p
10 3-bedroom suburban house £148,000
11 Haircut men £16, women £27
12 Levi's £32, shirt £18
13 Local phone call peak time 65p
14 Private school primary £3,280, secondary £5,000
15 University fees means-tested
16 Healthcare free
17 Income tax 18.5-45 per cent

- 1** Fiat Punto £8,906
2 Petrol for Punto £21.40
3 Cinema for two adults and two children £14
4 Pizza and wine x 4 adults £28
5 One-month travel pass £9.90
6 Working hours: doctor 45, solicitor 45, teacher 40
7 Holidays 4-6 weeks
8 Ham and cheese sandwich plus coffee £3.57
9 Groceries: tomatoes £1.58, chicken £1.58, olive oil £1.78, fish £7.80, instant coffee £4.45, ice-cream £2.66, cornflakes £1.23, beer 8p
10 3-bedroom suburban house £214,385
11 Haircut men £17.85, women £26.78
12 Levi's £38, shirt £25
13 3-minute local phone call 36p
14 Day school £1,084 to £1,215
15 University free
16 Healthcare means-tested
17 Income tax 0-46 per cent

- 1** Fiat Punto £7,160
2 Petrol for Punto £25
3 Cinema for two adults and two children £20
4 Pizza and wine x 4 adults £40
5 One-month travel pass £18
6 Working hours: doctor 58, solicitor 45, teacher 40
7 Holidays 4-6 weeks
8 Ham and cheese sandwich plus coffee £4.46



The Italian job: "I can afford a flat on my own and go to restaurants almost every night," says teacher Monica Stone

ITALY

MONICA STONE, 31, was a primary school teacher at Whitchurch First School, in Harrow, when she moved to Rome in 1996. "I wanted a radical change of lifestyle and Italy was a country that I already knew and loved," she says. "I had been here on holiday before and there were so many things I loved about the country."

"The architecture is beautiful, the climate is great and, of course, there is the delicious food and wine, which makes British food taste so bland."

But how does it feel to be a young woman in a foreign country? "Well, I can walk alone at any time and feel safe - which I wouldn't in London. The men here bark - but they don't bite. I can afford to rent a flat on my own in the centre of Rome and go out to restaurants almost every night as the pay is so much better. I could never have done all this back home."

She thinks of Italy as a country that invites you to live outdoors. "The weather allows you to go out more and take trips at weekends. The seaside and mountains are all within a short drive. I feel much more relaxed."

"London life is too stressful. It's so big that moving from one place to another is a nightmare. I haven't been back for one-and-a-half years. I dread the idea of going back to a winter in England, with all its drizzle and grey skies. I don't miss it at all, except for my family and friends."

"Right now I'm teaching English to adults and doing some work for television. I would not have been able to juggle that combination in London."

NICHOLAS RIGILLO

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SUSAN BELL

A Christmas Message

At this time of year, our thoughts turn to all our friends who have generously supported our Hospice during 1998. Your donations have helped to bring care, comfort and support to many patients and their families again this year. May we wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

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SEVEN years ago Toby Rose, a journalist, took the plunge and moved from London to Paris. His elegant and spacious apartment in the historic Marais district confirms the low price of city centre property. His flat costs him £700 a month.

"If I lived in London, I'd probably be stuck out in Finsbury Park, a hostage to the Victoria Line. No way could I afford to live in Soho, which is the closest equivalent to the Marais," he says. "I can live in the heart of Paris, in an extremely pretty and lively neighbourhood."

Quality of life in the French capital is helped by the fact that it is smaller and more accessible than London. "Getting around is not the laborious undertaking it is in London - unless there is a strike. Public transport is incredibly efficient. It's also much cheaper than London - a Metro ticket costs just 80p." The only hitch is taxis, says Toby, which "bizarrely

disappear" at rush hour, and cab drivers are often rude and unknowledgeable. But superb food at a reasonable price is one of Toby's great delights.

"When visitors arrive in Paris they are usually on red alert for rip-offs, but value for money is far better than anything you find in Britain," he says. "Menus offering reasonably priced three-course meals are on every street corner. It's not always sterling quality but it's honest grub. A decent lunch costs only £5. I always eat out at lunchtime as the lower prices encourage you to eat properly."

Toby, a film buff, was delighted to discover that cinemas in central Paris are cheaper than their West End equivalents. "The French are cinema-mad, so there is

a huge selection of films and cinemas, far bigger than in London."

Healthcare is also of a high standard, says Toby. He was recently admitted to hospital and was very impressed by the prompt attention he received. "I've never experienced any waiting here. In Britain it always seems to be touch and go if you are going to be seen."

Working in France is legal for EU nationals, although applying for a residency permit, driving licence, opening a bank account or reclaiming medical expenses are all accompanied by a deluge of paperwork. But Toby believes it is a small price to pay.

"I never expected to stay here so long but it was easy to settle in, and Paris is simply a beautiful and more pleasant place to live," he says.

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From left: cotton pyjamas, £45; suede bag, £75, and blankets, from £21 to £75; dressing gown, £165. All from Toast (01558 668200)

Your lifestyle is

Mail order isn't what it used to be: today's catalogues are glossy, trendy and very chic

The idea of running a mail-order business sounds perfect: it can be managed from home, preferably somewhere large and picturesque in the country, and slotted in around family commitments. Better still, it allows — nay demands — that you pursue a seductive existence since marketing a lifestyle is de rigueur in the Nineties mail-order business, be it via pictures of Boden's jolly banker brigade or Christina Dosa's ultra-hip US West Coast home.

Then there are the products. Where once mail order was a mass-produced, style-free zone of polyester and hire-purchase payments, now it's all scented candles, linen pyjamas and

stinky baby outfits that have been hand-knitted by dear little ladies who love their jobs. The brochures are mini works of art: no more doorstep-sized versions that have all the production values of a piece of fax paper. No wonder mail order has become a kind of Nineties business nirvana — so much so that even retailers who already have their own shops are getting involved.

"People kept asking if they could order over the telephone," says Sam Robinson, co-owner of The Cross. She

and her business partner, Sarah Kean, have just launched their first mail-order catalogue. "So many people work or have small children that they haven't much time to go shopping."

The Cross catalogue is the first and possibly only piece of empire building for West London's small but perfectly formed purveyor of gorgeous bath and bedroom products, delicious children's clothes and heavenly shoes and dresses for grown-ups. "We thought for ages about how to bring

the atmosphere of The Cross to customers in Yorkshire," says Sarah. You can see why it was such a challenge. Sam and Sarah, both 32, are old friends who speak in such well-calibrated sequence that listening to them is like watching a Harold Pinter play.

The shop is a happy outcome of their mutual asides: wildly chic but deliberately unimposing. It exudes an inimitable Holland Park aura (affluent but aspiring dilette-bohemian). Their catalogue is



Above: blue knitted coat-dress for baby, £39. Right: striped jumper, £39; pirate nucksack, £19.50. All from the Little Badger catalogue, details as before



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Give men gifts you would love

IT MUST be a scientific fact that when it comes to Christmas presents, men are impossible to buy for. They seem incapable of identifying anything they want — which would be rather touching if it weren't so irritating. After years of fruitless and frustrating searches, I've come to the conclusion that the only solution is to buy them something you would like for yourself.

One needs to be reasonably subtle in this approach — it's no good presenting them with a beaded Matthew Williamson evening bag and expecting them to sink to their knees in gratitude.

In my experience, objects for the house are a good, worthy start, especially ones that have involved some artistic endeavour. Better still are pieces that may one day become heirlooms. (That way you can justify the price to him on the ground that he is now in possession of something that is bound to turn into a worthwhile investment.)

Clearly we are now in the realms of objects rather than objects, and the best objects of all are those that come from designers who also dabble in fashion. That way you can slip in a little something for yourself with very little effort, and almost no impact on the total bill. You will also co-ordinate beautifully with your house.

Donna Karan, Nicole Farhi, Betty Jackson and Margaret Howell all design home

**FASHION
DIARY**
By Lisa
Armstrong

collections. Top of the range are Georgina von Ezdorf and Kate Blew, who both design some of the most beautiful colourful rugs around (and at their rather steep prices, it's all too easy to throw in one of their scarves or shawls while barely registering the financial damage).

Then there's Bill Amberg, who designs masculine-looking leather desks, folders and briefcases, as well as robust bags for women. If the man you are shopping for doesn't deserve quite such a generous treat, Betty Jackson designs cushions and throws for

Freeman's catalogues. I have yet to meet a man who actually likes either of these items, but it's worth a try.

Bill Amberg's home designs are available in his shop on 10 Chepstow Road, London, W2 (0171-721 3560); Georgina von Ezdorf's rugs are sold through Christopher Farr on Westbourne Grove, W11 (0171-792 5761); Kate Blew's silk or wool scarves and shawls are in Egg on Kinnerton Street, SW7; for stockists of her rugs, call Kappa Lambda on 0171-485 8822. For commissions, ring 0171-354 8676.

GIVENCHY

ORGANZA



quelque chose en moi
if (et) et





THEATRE
Cinderella
updated in
Hammersmith
THIS PAGE

THE TIMES ARTS

OPERA



Bonny Celtic charm

NEVER has a group seduced a nation in the demure way that the Corrs have won over Britain. Part of the trick has been good timing. Now that we are into a post-Spice era where pure pop is king, the soft, sweet music of the Corrs, with its bonny Celtic lilt, is not only pleasant on the ear, but fashionable as well.

Their second album, *Talk On Corners*, is on its way to becoming the best-selling record of 1998. The seduction has also been wrought on a more subtle, emotional level, as anyone watching their show at the 2,500-capacity Royal Concert Hall in Nottingham on Friday would doubtless agree.

The second night of an itinerary stretching all the way through to February, it was a more intimate affair than most of the forthcoming dates, including five nights at Wembley Arena, will be. The group seemed nervous, and the gig was

POP

The Corrs
Nottingham

marred by a series of minor technical gaffes. But if there was a tentative air to some of the individual performances there was the overwhelming sense of an act that has built its success on rock-like foundations of personal and musical integrity.

With their black hair, striking features and willowy, catwalk-model figures, the three Corrs sisters, Andrea (vocals, tin whistle), Sharon (violin, vocals) and Caroline (drums, bodhran, piano, vocals), looked beautiful but never brazen, while their elder brother Jim (guitar, keyboards, vocals) maintained an unshowy, businesslike air.

There was no attempt to dazzle the audience with sexy come-ons or bravura displays of musicianship. Instead they put their faith in their songs and the sheer force of their unspoilt collective personality.

With influences divided between Irish folk, pop and American soft rock, they produced an easy-going blend of mainstream music set to a surprisingly muscular backbeat on numbers including *Forgiven, Not Forgotten*, *Only When I Sleep* and *Queen Of Hollywood*, while emphasising their roots on more traditionally derived fare such as *Joy Of Life* and *Toss The Feathers*.

Andrea's singing, with its distinctive catch in the throat and vestigial brogue, was a delight, but it was the instrumental passages that captured much of the drama, not least when Caroline got cracking on her bodhran during *Haste To The Wedding*.

DAVID SINCLAIR

The RSC is launching a £1m appeal to help actors learn how to talk — and fight. Daniel Rosenthal reports

Please help us to be stage-struck

Pretend it is December 2008. You are in Stratford, flicking through the programme for the Royal Shakespeare Company's latest production of *Hamlet* when you read the following acknowledgement: "The authentic swordplay in tonight's Act V duel was made possible by the generosity of Mr and Mrs T.G. Cooper of Wellingborough."

That image seems less absurd when you learn that the RSC will tomorrow night launch a new acting fund which aims to raise £1 million over the next four years. The money will be spent on boosting actors' abilities in disciplines which, talent aside, are the foundations of Shakespearean performance: verse-speaking, movement and, yes, fighting. That an organisation whose core grant has suffered a real-terms cut of 15 per cent since 1993 is launching another appeal is not surprising. But why concentrate solely on acting? "This fund has become vital because actors face a huge gap in post-drama school training," says Adrian Noble, the RSC's artistic director. "The regional repertory system which used to give them a grounding in classical work has all but disappeared."

This fundamental change, Noble argues, has had a greater impact than any decline in the volume and, in some critics' opinion, quality of classical speech tuition at drama schools. Whatever the reasons, one thing is certain: "The RSC is having to take on more actors with relatively little experience of classical language," says Noble. "The level of talent is the same as when I started directing in 1976, but their baseline capability is undoubtedly lower."

If successful, the acting appeal will enable the RSC to double the resources currently allocated to performance training. A Stratford-based programme which has been bringing in directors from all over the world would be widened, and new projects created. This £250,000-a-year commitment to the RSC education department's annual budget, or the cost of sponsoring the current regional tour of *Richard III*.



"A fight has to be sustained dramatically night after night, but without causing the actor injury": Paul Hamilton and Alistair Petrie mix it in *Troilus and Cressida* as the RSC this year

Distinguished actors and arts benefactors have already donated £40,000 and will celebrate at a London party tomorrow night, wearing costumes in the style of the RSC smash *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*. As to whether average RSC subscribers might want to contribute, Noble is confident that "many people are interested in investing in talent, rather than buildings, scenery, marketing or administration".

With or without the benefit of bespoke sponsorship, there is a reasonable chance that the duel in 2008's *Hamlet* will be choreographed by freelance fight director Terry King, who has worked on dozens of RSC productions. Having started teaching in the 1970s he discovered "a knack for getting people to perform physical actions they thought were beyond them". He relishes working with "naturally gifted fighters" such as Toby Stephens in *Coriolanus* and the RSC's current *Troilus*, William Houston, and laments the fact that in many drama schools, fight training has been sacrificed as budgets have been cut. "The RSC has always taken fighting beyond drama school levels," he says. "But that work has become even more important."

Assistance from the acting fund would be doubly useful, he adds, because RSC seasons are longer than those at other theatres: "A fight has to be sustained dramatically night after night, for months, but without

causing the actor injury. That requires regular monitoring from fight directors." Like King, the RSC's voice director Clety Berry declines to comment on the quality of drama school teaching. She is, however, adamant that "actors need more classical training when they're students, especially more work on Shakespearean verse".

Berry has been working on dramatic language for 50 years and has assisted "pupils" such as Peggy Ashcroft, Ralph Fiennes (the acting fund's patron) and Antony Sher. Recently, as the company's touring schedule has expanded, Berry and her RSC colleagues, Lyn Darnley and head of voice Andrew Wade,

have found it increasingly difficult to shuttle back and forth preparing actors for performances at a range of venues, all of which demand slightly different vocal performances.

The situation worsened last year, when the fourth member of the department left and was not replaced. The result? "I can only cover the bare bones," Berry says. "There is hardly any room for the continuous development work that actors really need." She would love to spend her days customising RSC voices: present funding levels mean she has time only to conduct MoTs.

Donations, payable to "RSC", can be sent to the RSC Acting Fund, Development Department, RSC, Barbican Theatre, Silk Street, London EC2Y 8BQ.

Aflame, except for Cinders

Successful in parts, this pert pantomime, influenced by the late Angela Carter's ideas about the tale, is staged by the galloping herd of Julian Crouch and Phebe McDermott (ingenious creators of *Shockheaded Peter*), Lee Simpson and Neil Bartlett. Their probable idea was to freshen up the story by mixing toy theatre sets and cardboard furniture with such trid panto elements as guys playing the Ugly Sisters and a bellboy Buttons, add an air of improvisation, and place at the centre a heroine less wimpy than the usual long-haired blonde.

It all begins with a theatrical trunk in the middle of the stage, out of which clamber the cast, seven in all if you exclude the mice, who make their tinny entrances later. "Don't kill it!" cries a voice from the audience when one of the sisters bashes a cornered rodent with the broomstick. "Just watch!" comes the reply.

There is lovely work ahead using Sellotape and newspaper (a Crouch/McDermott speciality) twisted and folded by the actors into a giant cat and a generous cow before they flutter the torn pages away as a flock of birds. Paul Kieve contributes his expertise in stage magic to dress Cinders in a posh Sellotape frock for the ball, and puppeteer Alison McGowan manipulates a superb coach and horse into being from get more newsprint. All this is uplifting stuff, as are the moments when the form is parodied, with furniture shuffling out of Cinders' way when she sweeps the floor, or the mice's inguibus

ballad *Cheese in the Moonlight* — oh, what fun. The risk that an audience will side with Buttons (Martin Freeman) when the heroine dumps him for a royal crown is reduced by allowing Richard Katz's do-eyed Prince, equally slow with girls, to be quicker-witted than his menial. Of course he falls foul of the Uglies, literally when Jonathan Coyne, the rubby one, manhandles him to the ground and Katz must crawl towards us howling for help. Andy Smart, the bear-pole sibling, watches with a sinner.

But then there is Angela Clerk's Cinders. I suppose Carter wanted to present her as a woman close to self-possession, needing just a bit of maternal assurance to confirm her in her femininity. What we get is someone seemingly so traumatised by her mother's death that she becomes emotionally numb and forms an unhealthy attachment to her broomstick. Although her singing is confident, Clerk's curt, flat tones when speaking take her into a different play. Confessing that she has neither washed herself nor combed her hair since her mother's death, this hygienically challenged Cinders could be well be taking legionnaires' disease or worse with her to the palace.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Whistle a happy tune

Phil Wilmott has never let venue size get in the way of his magnificent Cecil B. DeMille ambitions. Last year his company stuffed an entire convent and a large slice of the Austrian Alps into the BAC main house to score a remarkable success with *The Sound of Music*. This year the Steam Industry has again recruited a cast of thousands, many of them local schoolchildren, to stage *The King and I*, the 1951 Rodgers and Hammerstein musical.

It is a charm offensive that would move the most stony-hearted critic. What it lacks in hard talent is more than compensated for by the exotic spectacle of the King of Siam's court in the 1860s, full of low-slung concubines and barefooted royal children whom an English governess, Anna Leonovens, has been sent to teach. Despite the fact that it is no more accurate about Thailand than *The Mikado* it

about Japan. *The King and I* is still banned in Thailand.

Sprouting an enormous cream bustle, Lindsey Danvers's Anna arrives at the court as if plucked newly chilled from a progressive Victorian parlour. The children giggle and the harem gossips as she launches into her first geography lesson like a trusting suffragette. "She will need disciplining," your Majesty," observes one of the King's lackeys. And so she does, but not before she has won over the entire female population and the flock of royal princes and princesses with a pocketful of winning numbers such as *I Whistle a Happy Tune*.

It may be the clash of East and West, of a slave-owning, male-dominated nation struggling to gain credibility in colonial Europe, that gives this gay fantasia its spin. But it is the battle of egos between the King and Anna, played out against the belated harmonies of the court, that makes young pulses race. Alan Mosley's King is a younger version of Yul Brynner, his Sinbad costume leaving him as conveniently bare-chested as he is bald.

His is a wonderful performance of comic arrogance, despite the halting bad English: "No man big enough for to be alone," he stutters. He has a point. With 67 children (7 by play's end), and half as many wives and concubines again, the King is not short on family pride. "No wonder you are the ram of Siam," notes Anna. A must for English governesses of all ages.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER



Alan Mosley and Lindsey Danvers as the King and Anna in Rodgers and Hammerstein's evergreen *The King and I*

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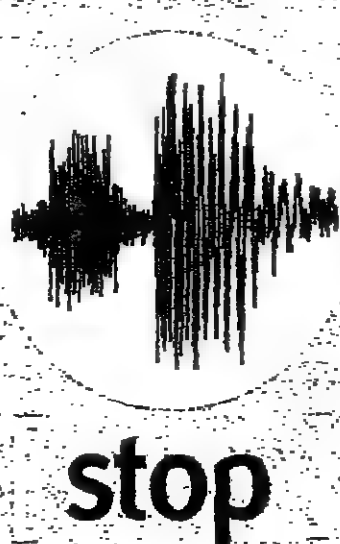
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Where are the heroes for today?

Rachel Campbell-Johnston
finds true grit in Shackleton

Ever since Achilles, offered a choice between eternal life and glorious death, opted for the latter, the kamikaze school of heroism has stolen the highest honours.

Would anyone remember Chatterton if he hadn't taken arsenic at the age of 17? In the martial field, Nelson is lauded over Montgomery as a leader. He seized victory at Trafalgar with reckless courage, more dashing than the patient strategy of Montgomery at El Alamein.

But this month we have an opportunity to appreciate a less Olympian form of heroism. On Thursday, the British Film Institute releases *South*, restored footage of Ernest Shackleton's 1914 polar expedition. And in keeping with the polar theme, *Bloomsbury* is publishing Caroline Alexander's *The Endurance*, a stirring account of the journey woven around breathtaking photographic stills.

The story of Shackleton has long been overshadowed by the sacrifice of Scott, but the time is ripe for revisionism. Those who endure can teach us things we can never learn from the vainglorious.

Antarctica is the bleakest, most lifeless continent on earth. At the beginning of this century, it offered a pure and uncomplicated arena for heroism. With winds howling across savage ice-scapes, and temperatures plummeting to brutal extremes, men pitted themselves against the raw force of nature and tested their endurance to its end. They competed to see just how dead they could get.

As a doorman appears to have been the best answer. For anyone with even the most cursory knowledge of polar exploration, the words Scott and the Antarctic have become as inextricably linked as Clive and India — or glacier ice and whisky. And the reason why... because Scott died.

Of course, as Caroline Alexander points out, only the most hardened would remain unmoved by Scott's final words, penned in a gallant little tent while a white night raged around: "It seems a pity, but I do not think I can write anymore..." Yet it was best that he did not. When Scott's last diary entry finally reached the outside world, an empire mourned. "With the sole example of the death of Nelson in the hour of victory, there has been nothing so dramatic," a journalist wrote. Scott's death created a pristine myth. His fatal, perverse blunders and his inhuman discipline (on the *Discovery*, in the middle of the Antarctic, he put men in irons for disobedience) were not merely forgotten. They evaporated into his aura.

Shackleton, in contrast, survived. "A live donkey is better than a dead lion," he reputedly said in 1908, when, within 100 miles of the South Pole, he made the decision to turn back, to preserve the lives of his men. At a similar crucial

point three years later Scott made the mad dash.

Shackleton shouldered failure in order that he might try again. In 1914, just as Germany declared war on Russia, he set sail on the *Endurance* to traverse the Antarctic continent. "The last great journey left to man," as he described it. But, in an unusually harsh winter, his ship was trapped and crushed like matchwood in the grinding floes. Held fast for week after week by the ice, the crew struggled to an outpost of the South Shetlands, from where Shackleton and five others set off in a tiny boat to arrive after 17 days, on South Georgia. Even then they still had to scale huge glaciers to cross to the inhabited north coast, from where a rescue party could be dispatched to retrieve those still stranded. Not one life was lost.

Still, Shackleton did not shift Scott from his hero's podium. Returning to Britain towards the end of the war, Shackleton found that Scott, the tragic hero, was better suited at that time to the national mood. Broken in bad health and at a loose end, Shackleton trudged the lecture circuit, before finally returning once more to the Antarctic, where he died of a heart attack at the age of 47.

As the 20th century draws to a close, it is time for a reassessment. In the age of Boycott and Beckham we need role models whose first instinct is not to vaunt themselves. Shackleton was a heroism which rose above egotism. "When occasion demanded, he would attend personally to the smallest details," wrote Frank Worsley, the high-spirited captain of the *Endurance*.

And though sometimes such care seemed to his men to amount almost to fussiness, to the broody concern of a mother hen, it was, in reality, fuelled by Shackleton's determination to bring out the best in those who were entrusted to him. "At the core of his gift for leadership in crisis," writes Caroline Alexander, "was an adamant conviction that quite ordinary individuals were capable of heroic feats... that the weak and the strong could and must survive together."

This was the human form of heroism which Shackleton showed as, unafraid of failure, he put survival over the ultimate sacrifice, day-to-day existence over the glorious death. He elicited from his men a stoicism and courage which many of them may never have even imagined they possessed. In doing so, he turned them into heroes. We "grovelled down yet grasped at glory," Shackleton wrote. He extracted nobility from failure. Which is why the limping leader should endure longer in the imagination than the dead god.

The premiere of *South* takes place at the National Film Theatre on Thursday.

The Blair-Blunkett partnership has

The behaviour of the cunning Cranborne is indefensible — but he is not Hague's real enemy

Going the way of all the Cecils

Winston Churchill, as so often, got it right. "The Cecils are always ill or resigning," he once said.

Fortunately the family's physical health seems to have improved, but the resigning gene is as dominant as ever. William Hague is in a remarkable tradition of party leaders who have had to deal with embarrassing Cecil departures.

In 1867 Benjamin Disraeli received the resignation of the then Cranborne, later Prime Minister and 3rd Marquess of Salisbury.

Cranborne's resignation issue was the Reform Bill of that year, which he regarded as far too democratic. Democracy, he thought, meant that "eight beggars could govern seven Rothschilds and, what is more, tax them". He thought the landed classes had a "superior fitness" to govern. In 1918 David Lloyd George received the resignation of Lord Robert Cecil on the issue of disestablishment of the Welsh Church. In 1927 Stanley Baldwin faced the same Cecil's resignation on the issue of naval parity for the United States, in the Geneva disarmament talks.

In 1938 the Cranborne of that period joined Anthony Eden in resigning from Chamberlain's government — perhaps the only Cecil resignation to be justified by subsequent events. In 1957, having become the 5th Marquess, "Bobby" resigned again over the release of Archbishop Makarios from prison which led to the independence of Cyprus. If one is opposed to democracy, believes that the Welsh Church should still be established, that the United States Navy should be smaller than the British and that Cyprus should still be part of the British Empire, one can argue that the Cecil resignations have been consistent and wise.

This is not to mention Lord Hugh, who early this century led the "Hughligans" in the House of Commons, persecuted his cousin and leader Arthur Balfour and was Winston Churchill's best man. Lord Hugh does not seem to have reached an office high enough for him to feel compelled to resign. He is remembered for his exchange with a Cecil cousin, "Algernon, why have you grown that absurd beard?"

"Our Lord grew a beard." Kenneth Rose in his book *The Later Cecils* observes that "the hair trigger conscience wins little admiration around the Cabinet table. Unfortunately the hair trigger of the Cecils usually shoots the wrong bird."

No defence can be made of the way the present Viscount Cranborne has behaved. He was negotiating, as Shadow Leader in the House of Lords, on behalf of his party. He chose to deal directly with the Prime Minister and to reach an agreement behind his colleagues' backs. Instead of informing his leader, he plotted with Alastair Campbell to make a snap announcement. He deliberately laid a trap for Mr Hague, presumably hoping to force him to accept the deal, this conduct was "too clever by half", to use the phrase with which Bobby skewered Iain Macleod.

William Hague cannot be faulted

for sacking Cranborne — if he hadn't, the story would have been around the lobbies in minutes, and Hague would have been regarded as a weak leader and his leadership of the Conservative Party would have been finished.

There was a serious misjudgment. Mr Hague does not understand the House of Lords. The hereditary peers were fighting a limited battle, to reach a compromise; they were not fighting in absolute terms to achieve

dence in the hereditary principles. Perhaps they think it will still last a few generations more for the moment. They are good people, but herbivores. It was Mr Hague's misfortune that the Tory peers were sheep led by a fox.

The peers thought the Cranborne settlement was as favourable as could be negotiated. That is a matter of judgment, on which it is difficult to dissent. The Tory party wanted to force Tony Blair to accept a proper new revising chamber; they knew that it would have to be at least partly elected to have any real authority. The Shadow Cabinet hoped to use the Tory peers to move towards this more ambitious aim; they failed to calculate that Tony Blair might offer to buy off the Tory peers, and that if he did so, Cranborne would almost certainly accept his offer.

The outcomes are interesting. Mr Hague fell into Cranborne's trap but is now scrambling out of it. He has been damaged, but by no means destroyed. He has shown strength. The Conservative Party has lost the House of Lords: the peers are demoralised, the deal will go through and 50 new life peers will win most divisions for Mr Blair.

The Lords has also lost the Conservative Party. There is nothing now to stop the Shadow Cabinet moving to the full reform policy that ought to have been adopted from the

beginning. That means a genuine revising chamber, on a largely elected basis.

Cranborne's attempt to save the rump of the hereditary peers now therefore threatens the life peers; they have been made much less attractive to the Tories by the shining new Labour faces of the Prime Minister's friends. It will be ironic if, because of this, most life peers are abolished.

The next election will not be decided by anything that has happened this month. It will turn on the state of the economy, the success of Labour's constitutional programme. On these issues, Labour looks vulnerable. This contretemps will have hardened Mr Hague. He will soon have to get another Shadow Leader of the House of Lords: Lord Strathclyde was as compromised in the plot as Lord Cranborne. He was a party to deceiving the Shadow Cabinet of which he is now a member.

I hope this hardening process will make Mr Hague more committed to relate to all his various constituencies. I understand the Hague project, a Conservative modernisation parallel to Mr Blair's modernisation of Labour. It is based on a democratic approach, on Yorkshire toughness, on managerial attitude and on the views of his own generation. In these terms the Tory peers do not much matter, though a tactical defeat could have been avoided.

A major political party has to be a coalition of interests and attitudes, and has to appeal to younger as well as older voters. Mr Hague needs to broaden his range of real consultation. His political enemies are not the Tory peers, or even the cunning Cranborne, but: New Labour and Tony Blair.

Still not out of the Woodhead

Even more radical change is required in education, says Peter Riddell

Not all political alliances between public schoolboys and Yorkshire-born state school boys are doomed to fail apart. The relationship between Tony Blair, Pines and Oxford, and David Blunkett, educated in Sheffield only a few miles away from William Hague, remains close. And it has become central to fulfilling Mr Blair's often repeated pledge to make education the top priority of his Government, so ensuring that Blairism achieves the lasting domestic impact that Thatcherism had.

Before the election, Mr Blair was criticised for sending his elder son several miles to the London Oratory rather than to a local comprehensive in Islington, even though the record of its secondary schools is among the worst in the capital. Yet it is precisely his experience as a middle-class London parent that has made him so committed to improving state education. Mr Blair has become particularly keen on the work of Chris Woodhead, the head of the Ofsted inspectors, and backed his reappointment.

Mr Blunkett's attitudes reflect his own triumph over multiple adversities and his impatience with inadequacies in schools holding back other working-class children. This has produced an insistence on raising standards and challenging failure, even if it means conflict with vested interests such as the teaching unions. However, as a former leader of Sheffield council, Mr Blunkett has generally been sympathetic to local education authorities. So while he cannot be categorised as old Labour, he has been sceptical about some of the more radical ideas produced by the Blair circle.

The Blair-Blunkett partnership has



RIDDELL ON MONDAY

produced a long list of initiatives, together with fresh money. For instance, last Thursday's Green Paper proposed far-reaching changes to the career structure, training and payment of teachers, together with a strengthening of the position of heads. The model has been centralist, with the Education Secretary producing instructions to schools to raise standards, with rewards for good performance, reinforced by inspection and the threat of direct intervention and even closure. The Tories have attacked this "command and control" approach for leading too many rigid rules on teachers, while David Willetts, the Shadow Education Secretary, has said heads and schools should be allowed more freedom. The unresolved question is whether it is possible for Whitehall to drive

through improvements in the classroom without changes in local structures. From Mr Blair downwards, ministers have always said that what matters is standards, not structures — though, in practice, they have meddled with structures. They are now starting to have second thoughts, both in education and elsewhere. One senior minister at the heart of Blairism admitted to me a few days ago that maybe they had got it wrong and that structures really did matter. The public service agreements, to be unveiled by Stephen Byers, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, next week, are likely to force departments to consider involving the private sector more.

In education, this means questioning whether local authorities should remain monopoly providers of taxpayer-financed schools. Education action zones were supposed to provide a fresh start, by linking together up to 20 primary and secondary schools in an area with the freedom, and cash, to try new ideas. The first dozen zones started in September, with a further dozen being launched in January. There is little evidence of mould-breaking so far: only a couple have scrapped national teachers' pay and conditions or significantly varied the national curriculum. Of course, it is early days, but the sceptics argue that the initial hopes of bringing in the private sector have been undermined by the continued dominance of local authorities. Councils have seen the chance of getting more

Whitshell money, while the private sector is mainly involved as consultants or selling services such as information technology.

Differences between Downing Street and the Education Department have led to a postponement of the next round of bids for zones, from last month until the new year. The Blairites want the terms to be changed to deal with complaints from business and others after the first round that fuller information should be available to allow a fair competition with local authorities.

However, the Prime Minister needs to be even more radical and to make it easier for teachers, parents and community groups either to take over schools or set up new ones. Initially, this might be within an education action zone. But the idea should be extended more generally, as in the United States, where 500 such charter schools have been set up by parents and teachers to compete with ones run by school boards. Most are not selective, and they often have strong backing from ethnic minorities.

In Britain, the record of city technology colleges and specialist schools has generally been good. However, at present, few alternative providers exist to take over failing schools or to start new ones. The private sector has limited experience of running more than one school and the voluntary sector has not developed as an alternative in the way that it has, say, with housing associations. In the immediate future, the Government is likely to rely on trying to change the leadership in schools, bringing in new heads and forming task forces of successful heads to tackle problem schools.

The long-term aim should be to create a variety of schools in an area, some run by councils and others by charities or business, thus allowing parents a real choice and teachers more freedom within the taxpayer-financed sector. A strong lead from Whitehall and rigorous inspection are necessary, but they are not sufficient. Woodheadism is desirable, but not enough. Traditional structures of local provision have to be challenged. That will be a real test for the Blair-Blunkett partnership.

Top Catz

LET battle between the brainboxes commence. A would-be fashionable Oxford college is touting for a new Master, but only celebrity academics need apply. St Catherine's College has leapt upon the trend for a "high-recognition" figurehead, as it seeks a name to replace Lord Plant of Highfield, who will retire next year. Dons at the nouveau college, erected in the 1960s Modernist style, are flipping through the *Radio Times* to find a suitably television-friendly candidate. Beryl Bainbridge (pictured left), the enduring authoress, has met with approval at High Table. Currently penning a novel on Samuel Johnson, Beryl is thrilled: "I am sure one would become an alcoholic rapidly. I have done the dinner thing at Oxford, where you begin on one floor and move to the next and on and on, drinking all the way."

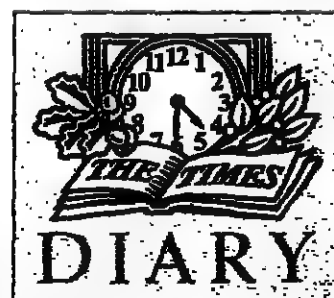
Also in the frame are old boy Sir John Birt (too downmarket), who can count on the support of Peter Mandelson, whose rough socialist edges were knocked off of him at "Catz". Sir Tom Stoppard (pictured right) would enjoy high tea with the holder of the college's Cameron Mackintosh Chair of Contemporary Theatre, previously held by Sir Ian McKellen and Alan Ayck-bourn.

Only Lord Braggi has reluctantly removed himself from the running, declaring himself busy until 2002. Most intriguing are the whispers



that a Yank will be parachuted in. Joseph Heller, the author of *Catch-22*, finds himself in something of a dilemma: "As a young man, I would have jumped at the chance," he tells me. The 75-year-old might add some gravitas to the arriviste institution.

PETER MANDELSON has cancelled Christmas. His Cabinet colleagues are creating goodwill by sending personalised cards, but



Pete, as he preferred to be known for years, is sending only standard House of Commons cards.

Fighting talk

GEORGE ROBERTSON is under attack from some distinctly unfriendly fire. The Defence Secretary plans to scrap the Royal Tournament with its Boy's Own field-gun competition and replace it with a cut-price "people's tattoo". He has forced the tournament's director to speak out. "The Government wants a show for 17-year-olds," harrumphs Colonel Iain Ferguson. "It wouldn't help us financially, yet it is happy to splash out if it is running things."

Robertson takes delight in throttling the 130-year-old pageant. "As we approach the millennium it is timely for us to take a fresh look."



"When you've finished loading, check it for stayaways"

The combatants do agree on one point, as Ferguson concedes: "I very much doubt the Government will ask me to advise on the new event."

TONY's top crony has got himself a new helper. Lord Falconer of Thoroton, dinner-table guest of the Blair who was appointed a Cabinet Office minister, has been presented with a PPS. Blair chose the fresh-faced Christopher Leslie, a 26-year-old high-flyer (but looks ten years younger) to carry Charlie's bags. Falconer is professing himself delighted with his new charge: "They have given

me this young boy. I have no idea what I am going to do with him."

Star wars

MARCO PIERRE WHITE has rubbished the credentials of Tom Aikens, his rival food guru at Pied-à-Terre. The Michelin Stars awarded to Aikens are not valid, says the irritable Marco in *Off The Menu*, an entertaining tome on chefs and their egos. "When you've won them, they take on a different meaning. You see, two stars to Tom can't really mean the same as to someone who has won two stars, because he inherited them."

Aikens, who bought out the previous proprietor at Pied-à-Terre, is affronted at the suggestion that the stars were merely passed down. "Whatever Marco says is actually rubbish, because the Michelin people mark the restaurant. I wasn't given them." So bad were the early days, Aikens just couldn't get the staff. "Nobody wanted to work for me because they presumed the two stars would go. We had to get slapheads from the bloody jobcentre to come and peel carrots." An early precursor of the Welfare to Work scheme.

THE bass player of Oasis has taken up literature. "Gulag" has co-authored a biography of Robin



SPINNING news for Henry Dent-Brocklehurst. Sudeley Castle, the Gloucester pile enjoyed by the dashing blade and Lill Maftese, his model wife (pictured together) is the model for Blandings Castle in the P.G. Wodehouse Jeeves and Wooster books. "Sudeley had to be Blandings because it's the only castle in the South of England that's perched below a hill, rather than on top," enthuses Henry. "Perhaps we could invite everyone to Sudeley for a Blandings reunion?" Rather.

Friday, a forgotten Reading FC hooper. The title, *The Greatest Footballer You Never Saw*, hints at the elegant language to come.

High dudgeon

FORGET Saddam Hussein — the United Nations is taking punitive action against Donald Trump. Kofi Annan has threatened legal action

after the property mogul gained permission to build the world's tallest residential tower — an 861-ft-high, 90-storey monstrosity next to the UN's New York HQ. The building's huge garage could pose a security threat. A senior UN official is in despair: "I wish someone could appeal to Trump's sense of taste." Some chance.

JASPER GERARD



HUNGER FOR HATE

Empty gestures will not help animal welfare

Descriptions of the hunger-striker and militant animal rights campaigner, Barry Horne, lying emaciated on a hospital bed, his senses dwindling as his death draws near, are harrowing. Instinctively, one responds to his plight with compassion: the same compassion that goes out to cancer victims, sufferers from Parkinson's disease and the myriad other conditions that medical experimentation on animals can help to cure. Only a fanatical, narrow-minded commitment to a self-righteous campaign blinds militants to the fact that they are alienating even their natural sympathisers.

No normal person would wish to see pain inflicted upon an animal. And yet it must be recognised that behind all the major medical advances of the last century lies animal research. Ever since Louis Pasteur carried out his anthrax immunisation experiments on sheep, the vaccines which have virtually eliminated some incurable diseases — polio, typhoid, scarlet fever and diphtheria — have been developed through testing on animals. Cancer cures, organ transplantations, cataract surgery and anti-ulcer drugs, have all been advanced by vivisection. Only an implacable few would be prepared to halt medical progress, insisting on a ban on all animal experimentation. Activists who urge no less rank the wellbeing of animals above human life.

Clearly, Mr Horne does so. A violent man, possessed of a reckless determination, he once firebombed shops in the name of animal rights, and, although no one was injured in any of his attacks, he appeared indifferent to that risk. His supporters are prepared to go further. A group calling themselves the Animal Rights Militia have threatened to kill ten scientists connected with animal research if Mr Horne dies

from his hunger strike. Such militancy turns logic on its head. As in America, where extreme anti-abortionists are prepared to prevent what they perceive to be murder by committing murder themselves, cruelty to one species is avenged by cruelty to another. A concern which, allegedly, grows out of love for animals, appears to be motivated by a hatred of human beings.

In a pre-election policy document, the Labour Party pledged to "support a royal commission to review the effectiveness and justification of animal experiments and to examine alternatives". Animal rights campaigners act with justifiable anger when, operating within the margins of the law, they urge a tardy Government to fulfil its promises. They believe that Tony Blair is frustrating their expectations by failing to find space in his parliamentary timetable to push through Bills to ban fox hunting and the farming of fur.

But an impetuous response causes more harm than good. The release of hundreds of mink from fur farms this summer roused ire rather than accord as the fiercely predatory rodents devastated native fauna. Reasoned campaigns prove themselves far more powerful. Last month it was announced that cosmetic testing on animals was to be ended. The inhumane rearing of pigs in constrictive crates will be banned in Britain from the beginning of next year.

For all the sentiment with which Britons treat their pets, popular support for a total ban on vivisection for medical purposes will never be obtained. Mr Horne's energies would have been far better directed at a thoughtful campaign urging the prompt setting up of a royal commission to minimise gratuitous suffering. Instead, through his hunger strike, he resorts to blackmail. He reveals himself to be not a martyr, but a terrorist.

TRICK OR TRIAL?

Colonel Gaddafi cannot be trusted

Kofi Annan is a shrewd and patient negotiator. But even he must be wondering how much progress he made during his bizarre desert encounter with Muammar Gaddafi in breaking the stalemate over the extradition of the Lockerbie bombing suspects. The Libyan leader was apparently in good spirits and his officials promised "positive results very soon". But he gave no commitment on sending the two men to The Hague. He left Mr Annan unsure of Libya's next move. And he did not demystify the labyrinthine ways of Libyan decision-making, which mean that the extradition must first be considered by some 500 regional committees before going to a full assembly of the General People's Congress for a debate that could last up to ten days. Even then, Libyan officials say, further "arrangements" must be made.

Mr Annan could be forgiven for suspecting that the mercurial Libyan leader is deliberately stalling. Instead, however, he spoke of "fruitful" talks and expressed hopes that the issue could be resolved within reasonable time. Robin Cook also voiced "qualified optimism". He clearly does not now think the Libyan prevarication can be overcome before the tenth anniversary of the outrage, but says he is prepared to be patient. Significantly, Jim Swire, the representative of the victims' families and one of the strongest supporters of a trial in a third country, is also determined to see progress in the weekend talks. No one knows better than he does the anguish that the approaching anniversary will rekindle; but he, too, is ready to wait.

The fact is that no one knows whether the Libyan leader is acting in good faith. He is showing all the signs of vacillation in the face of conflicting pressures. On the one

hand, Libya is suffering from its international ostracism. The ban on air links — though increasingly broken by African leaders wanting to cock a snook at America — has deeply damaged Libya's economy. Foreign investment is deterred, tourism almost non-existent and Libya's access to the outside world sharply reduced. The country is excluded from the economic and political dialogue between the European Union and the rest of North Africa. It is under constant pressure from its neighbours to do a deal. And the regional influence of its quixotic brand of revolutionary Arab socialism is diminished with every year of isolation.

On the other hand, Colonel Gaddafi faces fierce internal opposition to any deal. Islamists, who have fought pitched battles with security forces and mounted several abortive coups, rule out any concessions to the West. Libyan Intelligence is terrified of what might emerge at any trial. Powerful tribal elders, linked to one of the suspects, can call on older and stronger loyalties in any clash with Colonel Gaddafi. Britain and America have been right to be patient — though Washington seems decidedly less ready to go the extra mile. Colonel Gaddafi is a capricious man, who rules as much by whim as by political logic. If he suspects a trick, the trial will never take place. The evidence may never be made public and the calls for justice will go unanswered. If, however, he can be persuaded that co-operation will immediately improve his country's international standing, he may decide to take on his opponents and do the deal. Mr Annan's courageous visit was not immediately rewarded. But it may, in the end, be decisive.

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

Classroom size is not everything

At the last election, the Labour Party promised it would spend more on education and, among other initiatives, cut class sizes in primary schools. Today *The Times* publishes research for the Centre of Policy Studies by Dr John Marks, an education adviser to the last Government, which shows that higher standards in primary and secondary schools are associated with lower spending per pupil and larger class sizes in primary schools. His work is a much-needed contribution to an issue that lies at the heart of the education debate: how can more money be spent on schools most effectively?

By dividing pupils' test results by the cost per pupil, Dr Marks has produced a rough, but thought-provoking, value for money table. The three top education authorities — Sefton, Bury and York — spent an average of just over £1,490 per primary pupil in 1997. Aged 11, more than 70 per cent of their pupils achieved level 4 or better in national curriculum tests in English, maths and science. Compare that with Greenwich, Lambeth, Hammersmith and Fulham, whose authorities spent more (an average of more than £2,420 per pupil) but achieved less (a pass rate of 58 per cent).

The findings on class sizes is also counter-intuitive. In Kingston upon Thames, 54 per cent of primary school classes have 30 or more pupils. 71 per cent of Kingston's 11-year-olds achieved level 4 or above in their tests. In neighbouring Wandsworth, while only 9 per cent of

classes have more than 30 pupils, 62 per cent of pupils passed the same threshold. Critics will undoubtedly claim that Dr Marks is not comparing like with like. In their eyes, academic achievements fluctuate because children who live in inner cities, riddled with unemployment and social deprivation, can never be expected to perform as well those from secure suburbia. They will point to the fact that the education authorities who bump along the bottom of Dr Marks's performance table are almost entirely those with the highest proportion of children entitled to free school meals — a classic indicator of deprivation. Furthermore, as many of these authorities also have large ethnic communities, they deserve extra money and smaller class sizes to teach children English, yet cannot be expected to deliver great value for money.

Although there is some obvious merit in these arguments, poverty should not be used as an excuse for underperformance or for avoiding a thorough debate about Dr Marks's findings. Ofsted, the school inspectorate, has found that in primary schools the size of class can indeed influence teaching's effectiveness; but in every school, the methods that teachers use to impart knowledge are a crucial factor. Higher spending and lower class sizes might make good political slogans but, according to Dr Marks's research, the elusive formula to raise standards is not so straightforward.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

When officials are not to be 'named'

From the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman

Sir, Some of the comments in your leading article of December 3, "Our man in disgrace", may have given the impression that I intend, as Health Service Ombudsman, to deal more harshly with GPs against whom I uphold a complaint than I do, as Parliamentary Ombudsman, with erring ambassadors. That is not so.

I am not an enthusiast for "naming and shaming": if possible, I believe lessons should be learnt from complaints, in order to improve standards of service, and this is much more difficult in a culture of "name, blame and shame". That is one reason why I very seldom identify individuals in my published reports. But I do identify the institutions concerned, whether they are government departments or NHS bodies.

Ever since I published my first reports as Health Service Ombudsman about complaints against GPs (who did not come within my jurisdiction until April 1, 1996) I have taken the view that the relationship between patients and GPs is usually more personal and continuing than that between patients and hospitals or health authorities, that the consequences of adverse publicity are much more serious, and that I therefore should not normally identify either GPs or GP practices.

That was against a background in which the Ombudsman's findings and recommendations had for many years been accepted, virtually without exception, by the bodies which were criticised; appropriate apologies were offered, and changes were made for the future.

More recently, however, a very few GPs have refused to accept adverse findings or to offer an apology to the complainant, as I had recommended. So the complainants, having been through the lengthy process of the NHS complaints procedure and one of my investigations, saw his or her complaint upheld but received not even the modest redress of an apology.

I have no power to enforce my recommendations; but it does not seem to me unreasonable that a GP — or any other person — who refuses to accept them should be asked to justify that refusal publicly. That is the proposal which I have put forward for discussion by the public and the professions.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL BUCKLEY,
The Parliamentary Ombudsman,
Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration,
Millbank Tower, SW1P 4QP,
December 3.

Public standards

From Mr John Weth

Sir, In a week which has seen the Conservative Leader in the House of Lords and the chairman of the Rover Car Company take the responsibility publicly for conduct which may be regarded as mistaken, it is surely time that a senior public servant's conduct should not be protected by anonymity (report, "Ambassador is censured in row over resignation", and leading article, December 3).

I was informed in writing last year by the then Head of the Civil Service that he had no jurisdiction to consider allegations over the conduct of a senior civil servant in the Charity Commission in relation to a payment which I and my fellow trustees had requested on professional advice. Only the High Court, he wrote, could consider such allegations. I presume that this was on the basis that the commission is no longer responsible to Parliament for the exercise of its powers under the Charity Act 1993.

Such protection is surely unwarranted: High Court actions tend to be neither swift nor inexpensive. Nevertheless, this matter has been referred to the High Court in the public interest and is due to be heard on February 1.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WETH,
(Chief Executive,
Redditch Borough Council, 1976-85),
Chamber Cottage, Clumber Park,
Workshop, Nottinghamshire S80 3BQ,
December 4.

Castro family dissent

From Ms Juanita Castro

Sir, Your report (early editions, November 25) that I was writing a book to "put [the] family record straight" after the publication of a memoir by Alina Fernandez might have given the impression that I was proposing to defend my brother, Fidel Castro. This is not the case.

My criticism of the book concerns the way it depicts my parents. It is in no way a defense of Fidel or his communist regime. In fact, I have spoken out numerous times against both.

Sincerely,
JUANITA CASTRO,
2442 S.W. 27th Avenue,
Miami, FL, USA 33145.
clay42@aol.com
December 1.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

'Unjust' suspense of rail inquiries

From Mr Stanley Hall

Sir, You report today that Great Western Trains is to be prosecuted for corporate manslaughter over the deaths of seven passengers in the 1997 Southall rail crash and that it also faces prosecutions by the Health and Safety Executive. This brings to a total of four the number of actions that are pending, which already include the prosecution of the train driver for manslaughter, and the Health and Safety public inquiry into the cause of the accident.

It is somewhat ironic that the latter, which might be considered to be the most important, cannot apparently be allowed to commence until the other three have been concluded. Is it not more important to ascertain the cause and apply any necessary remedies without delay than to seek scapegoats and punish them?

We are facing a situation without parallel in railway history and it is becoming absurd: four separate actions, each of which will cover the same ground. Only a few years ago a public inquiry would have been held within weeks of the accident, irrespective of any other action pending. The cause would have been made known, recommendations made, and the public reassured.

The driver of the train has already been waiting in suspense for over a year for his trial and is likely to have to wait for quite a while longer. Is that justice? Is it fair?

Yours faithfully,
STANLEY HALL,
(Signalling and Safety Officer,
British Railways Board, 1977-82),
Stone Beck, Conistone Cold,
Skipton, North Yorkshire BD23 4EA,
December 2.

Christian Conservatism

From Dr Aidan Rankin and others

Sir, We applaud William Hague's desire for a dialogue with the Churches (report, November 16; letter, November 23) and his citation of the compassionate Conservatism of William Wilberforce and Lord Shaftesbury. This marks a significant shift in the culture of the Tory party, on which we hope constructively to build.

There is, nonetheless, more to a process of dialogue than the exchange of warm words. We agree that the Churches should be aware that many Conservatives believe in Christian principles and engage in voluntary humanitarian work. In turn, the Conservative Party should accept that it has in the recent past appeared neglectful of human rights issues. From Indonesia to Chile, it has

From Mr Mark Harvey

Sir, I am a member of the steering committee, organised by the Law Society, of five firms of solicitors who will represent the victims of the Southall train crash at the forthcoming public inquiry.

Initially, following the decision to prosecute Great Western Trains for manslaughter, the committee and our clients were happy with the decision to put a representative of the railway industry into court alongside the driver. It was our view that this was a clear signal not only to those involved in the rail industry but to corporations nationally that failure to discharge their responsibilities for safety can lead to criminal liability and not be simply a matter left for their insurance companies to pick up the bill.

However, although corporate manslaughter prosecutions usually require the identification of "a controlling mind" to whom the decision-making process which has led to the accident is traced, the Crown Prosecution Service has now stated that it is prosecuting only Great Western Trains and no individual person other than the train driver.

The victims have waited 14 months for a proper examination of the safety issues involving the railway industry. It is important that the CPS examines fully and correctly the question of corporate criminal responsibility. In view of the steering committee this requires the prosecution of an individual other than the driver.

Yours sincerely,
MARK HARVEY,
Smith Llewellyn Partnership
(Solicitors),
18 Princess Way, Swansea SA1 3LW,
December 2.

seemed to give an undeserved credibility to cruel regimes, through moral support and in some cases military aid.

We appeal to Mr Hague, and the new generation of Conservative leaders, to match humane rhetoric with a genuine shift in policy. For the official Opposition, a genuine "ethical foreign policy" would be strategically advantageous as well as morally right.

Yours faithfully,
AIDAN RANKIN
(Secretary, Conservatives for Human Rights),
CARMEL BUDIARDJO
(Director, TAPOL — Indonesia Human Rights Campaign),
TONY KEMPSTER
(Secretary, Anglican Pacifist Fellowship),
Flax K, Guilford Court,
51 Guilford Street, WC1N 1ES.
aidanr@iron.co.uk
November 24.

New Commandments

From the Director of the Christian Education Movement

Sir, Children and young people have been writing their own versions of the Ten Commandments in the US since 1992 (letters, November 24 and 28) for the "Laws of Life" competition sponsored by Sir John Templeton.

In the pilot competition run by this organisation in the UK last year, my personal preference was for "Look after the elderly while you can", but then I am over 50. More challenging was "You must forgive in order to live". The wisdom of quite young people is astounding. If only an opportunity is given to them by older people to be heard.

We are currently trying to establish a network of community-based projects to encourage school pupils to write about what is important if we are all to have a good life.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN ORCHARD,
Director,
Christian Education Movement,
Royal Buildings,
Victoria Street, Derby DE1 1GW.
cem@cem.org.uk
November 30.

Soros on capitalism

From Mr Malcolm Hill

Sir, Your serialisation of George Soros's book, *The Crisis of Global Capitalism* (November 30 to December 2), has been interesting. Mr Soros is a skilful player in the currency markets and has exposed the weakness of fixed-rate currencies. When he now supports fixed-rate currencies like the euro, with the proviso that they do not break down, he might be taken as a predator posing as Mr Nice Guy.

But when he proposes that global capitalism can be stabilised by financial measures his diagnosis and his remedy of state intervention both become superficial. The instability of capitalism has deep roots, such as the distribution of wealth and taxation. Such matters can be remedied only by Parliament. The monetary system cannot paper over deep structural cracks.

Perhaps Mr Soros published his book in order to position himself to become one of Tony's cronies, because new Labour loves to believe that the instability of capitalism arises from the monetary system. It is useful to blame the plumber when a marriage goes wrong.

Yours faithfully,
MALCOLM HILL,
58a Abingdon Road, W8 6AP,
December 3.

Planning loophole on conservation

From Mr David Lambert and others

Sir, A petition for leave to appeal, currently before the House of Lords, concerns the ruination of the tiny, unspoiled park of Downe Hall, a late 18th-century house in Bridport, Dorset. Planning permission has been granted for the building of eight executive homes in the grounds, supposedly in order to fund repairs to the listed building.

This is "enabling development" — a concept that is wide open to abuse, given commercial confidentiality and the lack of commercial and financial expertise among planners and conservation bodies. It offers a planning loophole, whereby a developer, if he wishes to build on quality open land, finds himself a listed building in need of repair.

Under this pretext, excessive and destructive development is being agreed to by decision-makers, including the Secretary of State, English Heritage and local planning authorities, without proper scrutiny of its justification. Despite assurances, lessons are not being learnt. Only last month, on the basis of support from English Heritage, South Somerset Council gave consent for a huge hotel development in the grounds of Cricket House at Cricket St Thomas.

The basic issue is the supply of appropriate, full and transparent information on the financial justification for a particular level of such development, limiting damage to the essential minimum needed to raise funds for repairs. The national amenity societies are publishing a report on the subject shortly, but we feel that it must be in the public interest for Government to close this loophole by issuing guidance for both planners and developers on enabling development as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, the House of Lords has the opportunity to address the matter in responding to the Downe Hall petition.

Yours faithfully,

DAVID LAMBERT
(Garden History Society),
NEIL BURTON
(Georgian Group),
RICHARD POLLARD
(SAVE),
CAROLINE SANDWICH
(Dorset Gardens Trust),
MATTHEW SAUNDERS
(Ancient Monuments Society),
Station House, Wickwar,
Gloucestershire GL12 8LE,
November 30.

Spies' tales

From Mr Aubrey Essex

Sir, In my 20 years' experience in the Information Research Department (later the Overseas Information Department) of the Foreign Office, I don't believe I ever saw a spy pass a glass door (report, "Fay Weldon reveals role in Cold War against Poland", November 30). Certainly no one ever told me not to look. Nor would I have expected anyone in his right mind to announce the imminent passage of spies: the temptation to peek would have been overwhelming. It would all be a bit of a hoot, but for the caption to the picture — "Weldon: went from writing fiction to writing fiction". IRD, with many talented academics, specialists, researchers and journalists, could not have existed if the accuracy of its material had been in doubt.

Yours etc,

AUBREY ESSEX,
25 South Parade,
Cleveleys, Lancashire FY5 3NP.
aube@aol.com
December 1.

To the darkness

From Mr D. L. B. Hartley

Sir, The Woolfs, the Sackville-Wests and the Quennell Bells took one of the special trains from London to the North Yorkshire moors to observe the total eclipse of the Sun on June 29, 1927 — an experience Virginia recorded in her diary for June 30, 1927 (letters, December 1).

I too can record my experience. At school in Morecambe there was an impressive build-up to the event. We were told there hadn't been an eclipse for 200 years; we were issued with simple cardboard sun spectacles and got the impression that we might be blinded if we did not use them; and we got up very early.

We stood on the steps of the Park Hotel, watched our sun spectacles — and saw only a grey, grey sky. We agreed that the Eclipse was a Complete Swiz.

I wouldn't go again.

Yours sincerely,
DESMOND HARTLEY,
Ghyll Bank,
Brook Road,
Windermere, Cumbria LA23 2BU,
December 1.

Oeufs en concrete

From Dr David Keeling

Sir, No more letters about Delia Smith, please (November 20 and 25). Un oeuf is an oeuf.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID KEELING,
49 Littleworth, Oxford OX3 3TR.
david.keeling@ndm.ox.ac.uk
November 25.

SOCIAL NEWS

Birthdays today

Sir Fred Atkinson, former civil servant, 79; Mr Roy Avery, former Headmaster, Bristol Grammar School, 73; Viscount Boyd of Merton, 59; Judge Lord Elystan Morgan, 66; Mr David Evans, trade unionist, 63; Mr Kaffie Fasset, textile designer, 61; Professor Lawrence Freedman, FBA, war historian, 50; Professor Sir Abraham Goldberg, physician, 75; Professor N. Gowan, Principal, Royal Holloway University of London, 58; Dr A.J. Higgins, director, Animal Health Trust, Newmarket, 50; Sir Bryan Hopkin, former civil servant, 84; Mr Chris Joynt, rugby league player, 27; Mr Victor Kiam, chairman and chief executive officer, Remington Products, Company, 72; the Countess of Limerick, 63; Sir Sydney Samuelson, former British Film Commissioner, 73; The Right Rev Peter Selby, Bishop of Worcester, 57; Mr Roger J. Taylor, former executive deputy chairman, Sun & Sun Alliance Insurance Group, 57; The Rev R.C. Trueman, former Principal, St Chad's College, Durham, 72; Mr Eli Wallach, actor, 83; Miss Helen Watts, opera singer, 71.

Lecture

The London Institute Professor Toshio Watanabe, researcher at Chelsea College of Art and Design and Chair of the Association of Art Historians will discuss the work of Ruskin in Japan 1890-1940. Nature for Art, Art for Nature, on Tuesday, December 8, at 7.00pm in the Courtyard Theatre, WCI. For complimentary tickets call the Box Office on 0171 242 7040.

Dinner

Old Omdelian Club. President of the Old Omdelian Club, President of the annual London dinner held on Friday night at the RAF Club. Mr David McMurray, Headmaster of Omdelian School, and the Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire also spoke.

Luncheon

Sainsbury's and Sainsbury's Club. The American Ambassador was the guest of honour and speaker at the Christmas luncheon held at Sainsbury's and Sainsbury's Club on Friday at the Savoy Hotel. Mr John Bromley, chairman, Mr Ronnie Corbett, Mr Neil Benson and Mr Adrian Walsh also spoke.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will attend the service for the installation of the Dean of Exeter at the Dean of Exeter Cathedral, Windsor Castle, at 11.00. Princess Margaret will be present. The Duke of Edinburgh, honorary freeman and liverman, will attend the Coachmakers' Christmas reception at Armoury House, City Road, London EC1, at 7.00. The Prince of Wales will attend the Royal Variety Performance at the Lyceum Theatre, 354 The Strand, London WC2, at 7.25. The Princess Royal, Chancellor, London University, will visit Birkbeck College on the 175th anniversary of its foundation at 6.00. The Duchess of Gloucester, patron, National Asthma Campaign, will attend a reception at St James's Palace at 6.45 to mark the anniversary of the death of the President of the campaign, Princess Alexandra, patron, will attend a Christmas concert in aid of the New Bridge at the Guards' Chapel, at 6.55.

Institute of Sports Medicine

Sir David Money-Coutts, Chairman of the Institute of Sports Medicine, presided at the annual award ceremony on Friday night at the Middlesex Hospital. Mr John Lester Firth delivered the 'Fellows' lecture and Mr Donald Mackay, the guest of honour, presented the certificates. The following were admitted to Fellowship: Dr Roy Axon, Sir Roger Bannister, Mr John Lester Firth and Professor William Angus Wallace. Honorary Fellow: Mr Peter Sebastian, founder.

Plumbers' Company

Mr Edward Hopkinson, Master of the Plumbers' Company, visited HMS Sultan recently to present the company's annual award to Leading Marine Engineering Artificer C.A. Cross, the best trainee qualifying in Metalwork.

Ball

Royal College of Defence Studies Vice-Admiral J.H.S. McAnally, Commandant of the Royal College of Defence Studies, was the guest at the college's 1998 End of Course Ball held on Friday at Seafood House. Rear-Admiral Louis Armstrong was the principal guest.

Nature notes

THE snow and ice have set birds on the move towards warmer districts. There has been an influx of blackbirds into London and southern counties: these birds may have come from as far as Poland or Russia. They continually quarrel with each other, and a domestic pigeon will sometimes step in and snatch up the scrap of food they are fighting over.

Many song thrushes, chaffinches and sky larks are heading west, sometimes crossing over into Ireland. On the East Coast there are flocks of shore larks on the salt marshes and dunes. They are visitors from Scandinavia and can easily be identified by their black and yellow faces. Great crested grebes and little grebes are going down



The magpie

from frozen lakes to the sea. Carrion crows and magpies walk out to scavenge on the ice when it is just beginning to melt. They can sometimes retrieve a tasty morsel that was floating on the water before it froze.

The frost is bringing down the last leaves from the trees - dry brown leaves from the oaks, yellow leaves from the young hornbeams. In the early morning they lie under the tree still glazed with ice. DJM



Twin sets: three-year-old Molly and Lucy Forbes from Guildford, Surrey, and, right, Rhea and Shreya Naik from Harrow, North London, and other twins and triplets celebrate the 21st anniversary of Tamba (Twins and Multiple Births Association) in London yesterday. They had attended a preview of the film *The Parent Trap*

How Beowulf's lair was pinned down to the Thames estuary

By NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

BEOWULF, that epic poem of warriors and longships, dragons and death that stands at the root of English literature, has for most of its readers existed only in the land of the imagination and in a time beyond memory.

Now a Kentish archaeologist claims to have pinned Beowulf down to a low-lying island at the mouth of the Thames 1,500 years ago, where place-names and ancient sites offer a credible background to the inspiration of the anonymous Anglo-Saxon author.

"Far from being a work of pure fiction, the poem preserves a memory of Germanic raids in southeastern England in the fifth and sixth centuries", Paul Wilkinson claims in *British Archaeology*. He places the central action, in and around the feasting hall of King Hrothgar, on the Isle of Harty, part of the larger Isle of Sheppey on the south bank of the Thames estuary.

In Beowulf, the eponymous young warrior arrives from his own country to find Hrothgar's land being ravaged by the monster Grendel: he kills Grendel, and then his terrible mother, before later being himself slain by a dragon and given a hero's funeral on great pyre overlooking the sea.

Many details of the weapons, homes, costumes and rites of Beowulf's world have been perceived to have parallels in early Anglo-Saxon archaeology, most notably in the Sutton Hoo ship-burial in Suffolk, and internal evidence in the poem places its action around the same time, in the sixth century A.D.

While many scholars have placed the poem's imaginary land in southern Scandinavia, Mr Wilkinson believes that the Kentish coast and its Dark Age history are a more plausible, with the settlement of Hengest and Horsa on Thanet as a salient event, and their possible seizure of other islands along the Thames estuary.

He points out that Harty was called Heort in the seventh century, the same name as Hrothgar's hall in the poem, and that Beowulf's voyaging time of a day and a

half would match ancient estimates of the crossing from the mouth of the Rhine.

The "sea-cliffs shining, shorter steep" Mr Wilkinson matches with the white cliffs of Sheerness - the "bright headland" - and he notes that the name of Beowulf's landfall, "land's end" is still the name of a small sea inlet just north of Harty.

The road up to Hrothgar's hall was stone-paved, *stanes* in the poem: this term was used for Roman roads, which did not exist in Scandinavia, Mr Wilkinson says, but such a road on the Isle of Harty leads up to a Roman villa or settlement and was recently mapped.

It also "makes sense that Hrothgar's hall was a former Roman villa", he says, the place-name expert Margaret Gelling notes that Hrothgar's *fage* floor - fine or flagged floor - "could denote the paved or tessellated floor of a Roman building".

The medieval name of the region where Harty lies, the *Lathe of Scray* which extends on the mainland to south of Faversham, was *Sclorwaga*, the *hop* element meaning "surrounded by marshes" and used in Beowulf to describe the lairs of Grendel and his mother.

In the fifth century, the Swale estuary was a drowned world of marsh, bog, tidal pools and whorls, Mr Wilkinson says. The *scorwaga* element indicates a malignant being, so that the ancient name denoted a marsh inhabited by devils, which "fits exactly the story of the half-human beasts whom Beowulf slayed in the watery wilderness that surrounded Heort".

He speculates that a large bog-shaped mound called Nagden Bump, on the mainland shore opposite Harty, could have been, or been seen as, Beowulf's burial place. That is one thing we shall never know: the mound was destroyed 40 years ago.

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Forthcoming marriages

Mr M.T. Clarke and Miss S.J. Leather. The engagement is announced between Malcolm, only son of Mr and Mrs Terry Clarke, of Speldhurst, Kent, and Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Leather, of Thorpe Langton, Leicestershire.

Mr A.C.M. Gerry and Miss K. Jones. The engagement is announced between Alistair, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Andrew Gerry, of Barnes, London, and Kathryn, eldest daughter of Dr and Mrs Philip Jackson, of Ascot, Berkshire.

Mr S.W. Howard and Miss A.L. Smallshaw. The engagement is announced between Stephen, son of Mr and Mrs Roy Howard, of Omagh, Co Tyrone, and Amanda Louise (Mandy), daughter of Dr John Smallshaw, of Chipstead, Surrey, and Mrs Judith Smallshaw, of Bassetbury, Leicestershire.

Mr S.J. McElroy and Miss F.G. Fraser. The engagement is announced between Stephen, eldest son of Mr and Mrs John McElroy, of Lincoln, and Fiona, daughter of Mr and Mrs Colin Fraser, of Dorking, Surrey.

Mr D.H. Oakes and Miss V.A. Woodman. The engagement is announced between David, only son of the late Mr John Haddon Oakes and of Mrs Mabel Oakes, of Tarnworth in Arden, Warwickshire, and Victoria Ann, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Alan Woodman, of Swyness, Leicestershire.

Mr C. Williams and Miss E. Radford. The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Mr and Mrs John Williams, of Kingswood, Surrey, and Emily, daughter of Mrs Heidi Radford, of London.

Marriages

The Hon D.W.N. Newall and Miss G.G. Lee. The marriage took place on Saturday at the Church of St Andrew and St Mary, How Caple, Herefordshire, of the Hon David Newall, younger son of Lord and Lady Newall, of Wotton Underwood, Buckinghamshire, to Miss Georgina Lee, younger daughter of the late Mr Peter Lee and Mrs Lee, of How Caple Court. The Rev David Enoch officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her brother, Mr Roger Lee, was attended by Jack Habbury, Freddie Fitzherbert and Miss Alexandra Lee. Mr Johny Bergius was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon will be spent in Cuba.

Sir William Goring, Bt, and Mrs S.H. Bullock. The marriage took place on Saturday, December 5, in Sussex. Sir William Goring, son of the late Major and Mrs Frederick Goring, and Mrs Stephanie Bullock, daughter of Mr and Mrs George Carter.

Mr W.A.R. Davis and Miss J.F. Howard. The marriage took place on Saturday, November 28, in Highgate, London. Mr W.A.R. Davis, elder son of Mr W.F. Davis and Mrs Ian Sinclair, and Miss Julia Howard, daughter of Mr and Mrs Howard-Lawson, Bt, and Lady Howard-Lawson, Father Edmund Hatton, OSB, officiated.

The bride was attended by Isobel Gavin, Chloé Herbert, Celia and Philip Lowe, Isobel McFarland, Sophie Rubin and Freddie Wright. Mr Justin Marking was best man.

Winecote (Lichfield): has been appointed Vicar, Codsall (same diocese). The Rev Joan Hicks, Curate, Earley St Peter (Oxford): has been appointed Priest-in-Charge, Beech Hill, Graysley and Spencers Wood (same diocese).

The Rev Brian Holmes, NSM Curate, Darlington St Matthew and St Luke (Durham): has been appointed Vicar, same benefice.

The Rev Peter Huxley, Team Rector, Bishopsworth and Bedminster Down (Bristol): has been appointed also Rural Dean of Bedminster (same diocese).

The Rev Dr Jeremy Ives, Priest-in-Charge, Abbotswell Blessed Virgin Mary (Exeter): has been appointed Priest-in-Charge, Tudeley w Capel, and also Diocesan Lay Adviser (Rochester).

The Rev Gordon Jeanes, Sub-Warden, St Michael's College, Llandaff (Llandaff): has been appointed Vicar, Wandsworth St Anne (Southwark).

London, 1817: John Fiskman, sculptor, London, 1826: Edward Irving, founder of the Holy Cough Apostolic Church, Glasgow, 1824: Kristen Plagstad, soprano, Oslo, 1962: Thornton David, novelist and dramatist, New Haven, Connecticut, 1975: Robert Graves, poet and novelist, Deyra, Majorca, 1985: The Theatre Royal, Covent Garden, opened, 1732.

Pearl Harbor was bombed by Japanese aircraft on December 7, 1941, during the Pacific War, and declared war on Japan, 1941.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

This people's wife are deluded; they have stopped their ears and their eyes, so that they may not see with their eyes nor hear with their ears, and thus turn away from me, Isaiah 6: 10.

BIRTHS

FREEMAN - On December 3rd to Henrietta (née Rivington) and Michael, a daughter, Hannah Sophie.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY, 100, The Strand, London WC2R 0ET. Notice of the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the Church. The Church is celebrating the 100th Anniversary of its founding in 1898. The Church is a member of the Church of England and is a part of the Diocese of London.

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OBITUARIES

ALBERT GORE

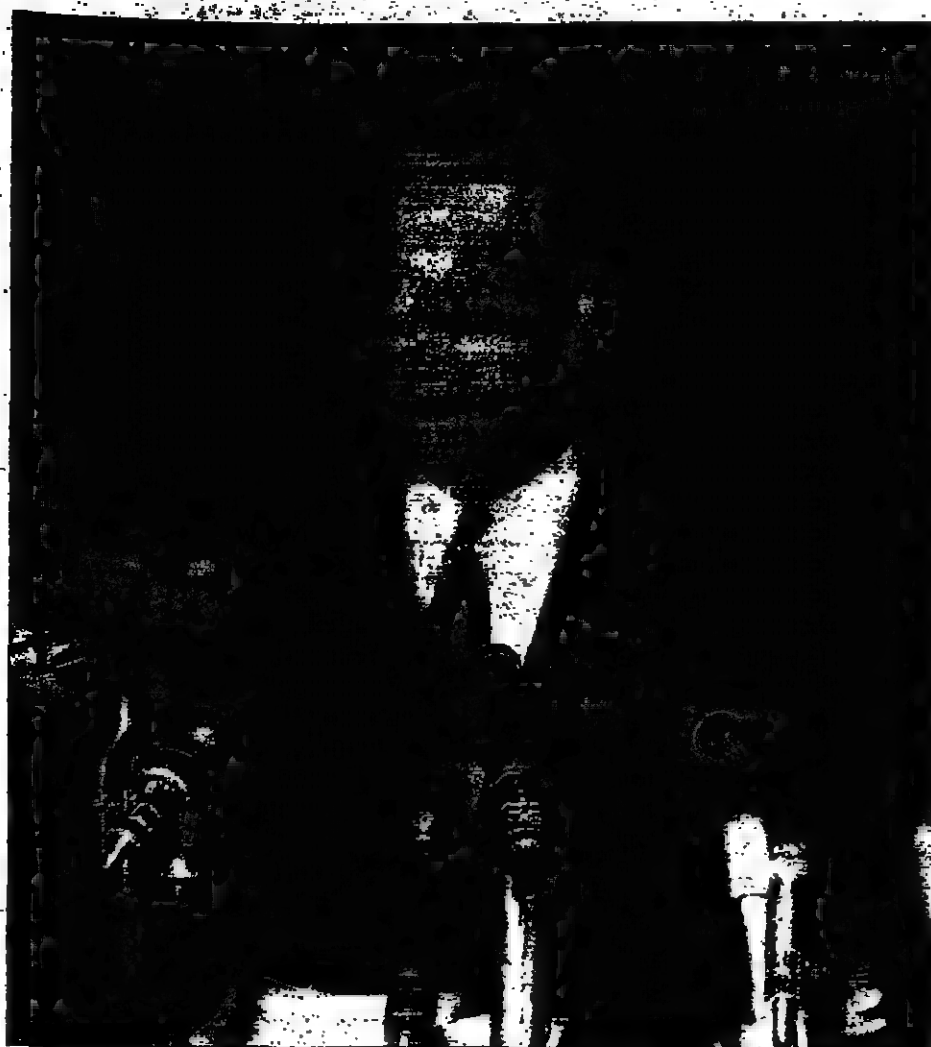
Albert Gore, Democrat Senator for Tennessee, 1952-70, died on December 5 aged 90. He was born on December 26, 1907.

With his down-home, hillbilly style, Albert Gore seemed to come from a different political culture from the one which bred his son Al Gore, the politically correct, environmentally aware Vice-President of the United States. But, though he came from a Southern background which was staunchly conservative, Albert Gore senior was ahead of his time in espousing many radical causes. From the 1950s onwards, he opposed racial segregation at a time when such a stance was apparently political suicide for one coming from south of the Mason-Dixon Line. In a later era he was a vociferous opponent of the Vietnam War, likewise, long before American involvement had become an object of general revulsion at home.

But it may well have been neither of these issues which lost Gore his Senate seat in 1970 to his much younger Republican opponent, William Brock. Only in an atmosphere dominated by the utterances of hot gospellers, hymn-singers and faith healers both in church and on the airwaves, could a man's right to pray become a key issue in an election campaign. Nevertheless, it was on this hard rock that Gore stumbled when his opposition to compulsory prayers in Tennessee's schools suddenly became a matter of burning concern that year.

Gore was forced on to the defensive against charges that he was "anti-American, anti-white and anti-God". Thereafter the electorate had its say in what Gore was always thereafter to refer to as "a marginal error on the part of the people of Tennessee".

The son of a farmer, Albert Gore was born in the hill country near Granville, Tennessee, and educated in Possum Hollow, at the one-room school which served as the community's pedagogical institution. After leaving school he himself became a teacher in such a school in a hill community, saving up the money he earned to put him through Tennessee State Teachers' College. After qualifying, he made his first bid for public office when he entered the election for the post of superintendent



Albert Gore in 1956 delivering a robust attack on Republican nuclear energy policy

of schools for Smith County, Tennessee.

He was not successful and returned to work on his father's farm. But the man who had defeated him did not long afterwards and Gore was appointed to succeed him. While in the post he studied law in evening classes at the YMCA Law School in Nashville, and took a degree in law in 1936. He continued farming, first tobacco and later cattle.

In Nashville he met his wife Pauline, who was working as a waitress to pay her way through Vanderbilt University Law School. They were married in 1937. For a period afterwards they ran a joint law practice in Carthage, Tennessee. Later, while he was absent for war service, she ran his Washington office.

Gore became Tennessee's labour commissioner and in 1938 was elected to the House of Representatives, where he spent the rest of his career in the mould of conservative Southern Democrats. During the Second World War he served in the US Army in Europe. In the Senate from 1952 he was considered as a possible vice-presidential candidate himself, but at the 1956 Democratic convention he gave way in favour of Estes Kefauver, who then had the dubious privilege of being the running-mate to the Democrat presidential candidate Adlai Stevenson in the latter's second rout at the hands of Dwight D. Eisenhower.

This was effectively the end of any thoughts of high office for Gore, but he continued to be a prominent figure in the Senate. There he was noted for opinions which were always highly individual, setting him apart from Southern conservatives and Northern liberals alike. In the Senate, where he spoke with hillbilly pitch on a wide range of issues, he was regarded as one of the best debaters of his era.

He made a name for himself when, in 1956, he became one

of only three Southern senators who refused to sign the "Southern Manifesto", a document prepared by other Southern Senators in protest against a Supreme Court decision to desegregate. The other Southern senators who took his view were Kefauver and Lyndon B. Johnson. He irritated President Kennedy by his early opposition to America's involvement in the Vietnamese conflict, and continued after Kennedy's assassination to enrage President Johnson with his highly publicised calls to get out of "the morass in Vietnam". In 1968, in a speech at the University of Idaho, he said prophetically: "We are destroying the country we profess to be saving."

No less controversial — and daring in a state like Tennessee, known as the "Volunteer State" from its citizens' willingness to bear arms in the nation's quarrels — was his support for stricter gun controls. Other targets of his criticism were Republican poli-

tics on the development of nuclear power stations and expenditure on an anti-ballistic missile programme. But his reputation was very far from being one based only on forcefully articulated negatives. He took a keen interest in arms limitation and was a delegate to several nuclear arms limitation talks with the Soviet Union in the 1960s. Like Churchill he believed that "jaw-jaw is better than war-war" and he protected his friend Armand Hammer, when the industrialist came under investigation from the virulently anti-communist J. Edgar Hoover-run FBI, which read sinister meanings into Hammer's visits to the Soviet Union.

In the early 1950s Gore introduced legislation to create the American interstate system of roads, to double as a defence highway network. He had seen and studied the Autobahn system during his war service in Germany and was quick to realise its revolutionary potential. This, again, did not make him popular in his home state, many of whose businessmen were wedded to the small-town idea that a cross-state highway must also be the main street of any community it served. But Gore pressed on, realising that the burgeoning size of modern commercial vehicles meant death to small towns. The Bill became law in 1956.

But by the end of the 1960s the head of Republican steam was building up against him in his home state. In 1969 he voted against the confirmation of Clement F. Haynsworth Jr to the Supreme Court, although Haynsworth — Richard Nixon's nominee — had a good deal of support in Tennessee. When the 1970 senatorial elections came round Nixon handpicked the young William Brock to oppose Gore, and the number of dangers that dropped in his own state at last told against him. Brock romped home by a large margin.

After Gore's departure from the Senate, Armand Hammer did not forget his old friend and gave him the job as head of a coal company owned by Hammer's Occidental Petroleum Corporation. Later he retired to farm at his ranch near Carthage.

A daughter, Nancy, died of cancer in 1984. Albert Gore is survived by his wife Pauline, and by his son Al.

THOMAS MANNING

Thomas Manning, OC, Arctic explorer, died in Canada on November 4 aged 86. He was born in Northampton on December 22, 1911.



Manning, and below, in the windswept wastes of the Canadian Arctic. He always completed an undertaking

KNOWN universally among explorers as "the Lone Wolf of the Arctic", Thomas Manning earned the sobriquet through his love of solitude in the trackless wastes of the Canadian high latitudes. He took a laconic approach to human relations to the extreme; indeed, it was never more cryptically demonstrated than in the brief message which led to the one really important personal relationship in his life — his marriage.

The year was 1938, the place Cape Dorset, a windswept Baffin Island promontory. Manning, the only member of a six-man party to have remained in the field after two years of exploration, recalled a Nova Scotia girl, Ella Wallace Jackson (better known as "Jack") whom he had met on board a ship taking him back to England three years before. His winsome message to her, handed to a passing Eskimo dog sled to be sent to Montreal by Morse code from the nearest radio transmitter, read: "If you wish to join me Cape Dorset for two years I shall be pleased. Think well. Fools rush in."

The object of his interest clearly found nothing untoward in this style of wooing, as she caught the next boat northwards, married Manning and settled in for an 18-month honeymoon with him, mapping the coast of Baffin Island. During this bridal idyll the newlyweds sustained themselves on a diet of fish, birds and seals which they hunted. Ella Manning recalled these experiences — long months during which they did not see another living soul — in her book *Igloo for the Night*, which was published in 1943.

At the end of their travels throughout Baffin Island the pair made their way back to the Eskimo settlement of Cape Dorset early in January 1940. There they were told that the Second World War had broken out three months earlier.

Manning wanted to do his bit for the Allied war effort and made his way to the town of Churchill on Hudson Bay, wanting to enlist in the Royal Canadian Navy. His exploits had preceded him and a US Air Force officer quizzed him about a tale he had heard from the Eskimos about Manning having once killed a polar bear with a boning knife. Manning merely replied: "It wasn't a very big bear."

Thomas Manning was the son of a well-to-do Northamptonshire farmer, who was also a county cricketer. He went to school at Harrow from where he went to Cambridge to read Natural Sciences. With means of his own he financed his first journey in 1932, an exploration

of Finnish Lapland, with a schoolfriend. During this they accidentally strayed over the Soviet border and after being arrested by a patrol, spent some time in custody in Leningrad, from which they were delivered after the intervention of the British Consul.

But Arctic Canada was to be the focus of his subsequent explorations. For two years he lived among the Eskimos of Southampton Island at the north end of Hudson Bay. Among them he learnt to survive the harsh conditions under which life and travel are endured in the Arctic regions.

Returning briefly to England in 1935, he was soon back in Canada exploring Foxe Basin and other parts of the coast of Baffin Island, before his unusual summons to his future bride. After enlisting in the Royal Canadian Navy in 1940, he helped to direct the building of Arctic airfields and, from his experiences with the Eskimos, was able to give valuable advice on the development of cold-weather clothing for the Armed Forces.

After the war he continued his explorations and in 1949 led an expedition to an island in the Foxe Basin whose existence had been suggested by photographs taken by a Canadian Air Force plane. Manning's expedition confirmed the island's existence and it was named Prince Charles Island in honour of the birth of the heir to the British throne the year before.

In 1952 Manning and a young colleague, Andrew Macpherson, attempted to circumnavigate Banks Island in

a canoe, but they were trapped in pack ice and had to abandon the attempt. Both men struggled to get back to safety overland, through appallingly difficult terrain — marsh covered with deep snow. In the process Manning suffered snow blindness and both men were relieved to be picked up by a trading schooner just as they feared they might be reaching the end of their tether. It was entirely in character that Manning returned in the following year to complete the canoe trip and the charting of the Banks Island coast. He was known for never leaving any undertaking unfinished.

Manning continued to explore the high latitudes until well into his sixties, carrying out zoological and ornithological studies for the Canadian Wildlife Service, during which he tagged polar bears and produced a number of scholarly papers. Among his honours were the Patron's Gold Medal of the Royal Geographical Society.

He was appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada (OC) in 1974.

He donated his library of several thousand volumes to the Eskimo community of Ikaluit on Baffin Island and shortly before his death gave £406,000 to Cambridge University to help the establishment of the new Shackleton Library at the Scott Polar Research Institute.

Manning is survived by his wife Jack, who published a second book, *A Summer on Hudson Bay*, in 1949. There were no children.



CLIVE RICHARDSON

Clive Richardson, composer, died on November 11 aged 89. He was born on June 23, 1909.

CLIVE RICHARDSON was a successful composer of light orchestral music. He also had a parallel career as a pianist, both as soloist and accompanist and as a musical director. Born in Paris of British parents, he was brought up from an early age in England. Going to school at Harrow, he at first had thoughts of becoming a doctor, but it was soon apparent that his career would be in music. He studied piano, orchestration and conducting at the Royal Academy of Music, gaining skills also on the organ, violin, clarinet, trumpet and timpani.

His entry into the music profession came by way of arranging popular songs and dance music for Walford Hyde's Café Colette Orchestra, which gave numerous broadcasts. He toured as a member of Harold Ramsey's Rhythm Symphony Orchestra, and was musical director for several André Charlot revues, including *Places at the Savoy* in 1933, starring Beatrice Lillie and Loring Lane, the company being Vivian Ellis, and Herbert Farjeon's *Spread in Abroad* at the Saville, 1936, with Hermione Gingold and Nelson Keys.

During the 1930s he toured extensively with the singer Hildegard, as accompanist and musical director, the highlight being a period at New York's Rainbow Room.

In 1936 Richardson joined the Gaumont British Film Company as arranger and assistant musical director to Louis Levy, working alongside Charles Williams, Leighton Lucas, Mischa Spoliansky and others in numerous films, their work usually uncredited. With Williams, Richardson wrote most of the music for Will Hay's Gainsborough pictures, including *Oh! Mr Porter* (1936); he also scored *French Without Tears* (1939).

Richardson had been in the Territorial Army since 1928, and when war broke out in 1939 he was called up immediately into the Royal Artillery Regiment, in which he served until hostilities ended. Musical activities continued as and when duties permitted. Richardson became a household name in 1944 for the many arrangements he made for Tommy Handley's popular radio show *JTM* ("It's That Man Again"). Orchestral transcriptions of folk-songs, nursery rhymes, traditional tunes and music-hall songs were a feature of each *JTM* programme; many have become standard pieces in the light music repertoire. (Other con-



Richardson: gift for melody, impeccable technique

tributors were Gordon Jacob and Arthur Sandford.)

As a composer, Richardson made his mark before the public with his *London Fantasia for Piano and Orchestra*, inspired by his memories of the bombing of Coventry, where he had been stationed on an anti-aircraft battery, the

Fantasia paints a realistic picture of a day in wartime. Too realistic for some, with its evocative imitation of air-raid sirens, it nevertheless received many performances, as well as two recordings, by Sidney Torch and Charles Williams, with the composer at the piano. In 1945 he wrote a

choral work, *Salute to Industry*, with words by A. P. Herbert. Other compositions included *Three Flemish Folk Tunes for Oboe and two Harps*, written for the Goossens family.

In 1944 Richardson teamed up with this friend and colleague Tony Lowry in a two-piano duo, "Four Hands in Harmony". Their inventive arrangements and ability to think as one made them enormously popular, to the extent that they topped the bill in variety shows and were featured in the film *My Ain Folk* (1944) which starred Mabel Constanduros, and in four shorts, *For Your Entertainment* (1952). They made more than 500 broadcasts.

Thanks to his gift for melody, impeccable technique and mastery of orchestration, Richardson's compositions found many outlets in broadcasting. As television established itself after the war, most of its music tended to be selected from publishers' recorded music libraries, to which Richardson made a notable contribution. His *Holiday Spirit* was for many years the theme tune of television's *Children's Newsreel*.

Clive Richardson, who was still composing and playing in his ninetieth year, is survived by his second wife, Unity, and a daughter.

Latest wills

Sir Richard William Holderness, Partner, Whiteheads, estate agents and surveyors, 1967-86, of Aldwick, Bognor Regis, West Sussex, left estate valued at £268,220 net.

Lady Chisholm, of London W4, left estate valued at £129,251 net.

Nora Harvey, of Audlem, Northwich, Cheshire, left estate valued at £3,493,957 net.

She left £25,000 to the International Fund For Animal Welfare, £10,000 to the Anti Vivisection Society.

Martin Roy Pascall, of Poole, Dorset, left estate valued at £3,541,516 net.

Brian John Brennan, of Godalming, Surrey, left estate valued at £2,065,006 net.

Watson Hugh McNeill of Clifton, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, left estate valued at £2,156,434 net.

Captain Christopher Baldwin, Hughes Wake-Walker, RN, read, of 11 Bergholt, Colchester, left

estate valued at £2,102,724 net.

Douglas Malcolm Alexander, of Malvern, Worcestershire, left estate valued at £1,111,787 net.

Bessie Mills Aroet, of London NW7, left estate valued at £1,530,487 net.

Stephen Tyrant-Badger, of London, SE21, left estate valued at £1,037,405 net.

Evangelina Stephanie Bonnell, of Lincoln, left estate valued at £1,241,039 net.

She left £30,000 to Lincolnshire Old Churches Trust and to Lincoln Cathedral Preservation Council; £25,000 to both British Red Cross Society and the Clergy Orphan Corporation; £20,000 to the Parson's Disease Society of the U.K.; £15,000 each to National Trust, RSPCA, and Age Concern; £10,000 each to Camp Hill Village Trust, of Whitby, Help the Aged, and the RNLI; £5,000 to St Margaret's Guild of St Margaret's School, Bushey, and to Lincoln Cathedral; £2,000 to Lincoln Cathedral School.

Betty Albus Borsese, of Herring, left estate valued at £1,217,540 net.

Nicholas Derek Cator, of Little Baddow, Essex, left estate valued at £1,041,814 net.

Joan Mary Forrester, of Bath, left estate valued at £1,721,235 net.

She left £1,000 to the Friends of Claverton Down Cais and Dogs Home; £500 to SS Great Britain Project, Great Western Dock, Bristol.

Vicor Emmanuel Hawes, of Chinnor, Oxfordshire, left estate valued at £1,106,237 net.

Henry Lancelot Palmer Hingston, of London SW1, left estate valued at £1,144,185 net.

Frederick William Matthews, of Downham Market, Norfolk, left estate valued at £1,006,857 net.

Jane Elizabeth Pashmore, of Windermere, Cumbria, left estate valued at £1,721,235 net.

John Paul, of Leiston, Suffolk, left estate valued at £1,577,355 net.

Margaret Joan Poyser, of Reigate, Surrey, left estate valued at £1,135,181 net.

Zygfryd Kierman, of London NW8, left estate valued at £1,017,723 net.

He left £5,000 to the Lubavitch Foundation, of London N16, and to the Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

Brigitte William Paul Temple Roberts, of Wimborne, Dorset, left estate valued at £81,507 net.

Olive Lindsay Trapp of Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria, left estate valued at £1,265,845 net.

CHRISTINE KEELER GETS NINE MONTHS

Christine Keeler, aged 21, a model, of Linthorpe Street, Marylebone, W., was sentenced at the Central Criminal Court yesterday to nine months' imprisonment after pleading guilty to committing perjury at the trial last August of Alastair ("Lucky") Gordon, and conspiracy to obstruct the course of justice.

Mr. John Buzard, for the prosecution, said the Crown took the view that the object of the perjury was not to secure the conviction of "Lucky" Gordon, who was charged with causing grievous bodily harm to Keeler, but to prevent it coming out that she had been associating with other coloured men.

Counsel said that on the night of April 17 Keeler was at a flat in Devonshire Street, W., and as she was leaving it was alleged that she was assaulted by Gordon. The police were summoned and two coloured men who were in the flat hid themselves in the bedroom.

Mr. Hutchinson, in a plea of mitigation, said that on December 14 last year a man named Edgecombe was charged with shooting at Keeler and that was the start of a whole series of events which had become known as the Keeler affair.

Keeler was a young woman who started life

ON THIS DAY

December 7, 1963

Christine Keeler, John Profumo and Stephen Ward were the leading figures in a scandal which rocked the nation. Profumo resigned his parliamentary seat. Ward committed suicide after being convicted of living on immoral earnings.

in humble circumstances and one of the best things about her was her devoted attitude to her mother and stepfather. At the age of 16 she gave birth to a child which died a few days later. Then she came to London from Weymouth, obtaining a job as a waitress. After that she obtained employment at Murray's Club and it was there she was introduced to Dr. Stephen Ward.

"I cannot emphasise too strongly the effect this had upon her. Dr. Ward was 30 years her senior and she became totally under his domination," counsel said. "Although she

may have been experienced in matters of sex, she was, and still remains, extremely immature when knowledge of the real world is concerned.

"Dr. Ward was a man of charm, he had great rustic flair and he won his way into a great number of power, taking with him this young girl. He groomed Keeler. He was a sort of Professor Higgins.

"She learnt his outlook and by the time she was 17 she had been introduced to Peter Rachman and had become his mistress. After that through the doctor she met other men and slept with them from time to time. For three years she lived in an unreal kind of dream world."

Mr. Hutchinson said everyone who had met Keeler considered her to be straightforward and curiously naïve. That contrasted very strongly with the image which the public had of her.

It was as a result of the trial of Edgecombe (who was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment) that the press got to know of the relationship existing between Keeler, Lord Astor, Mr. Profumo, Cliveden and the whole background.

As a result Dr. Ward turned against Keeler because he and his friends feared what she might say during the Edgecombe trial. Pressures were brought to bear, in consequence of which she disappeared.

Westwood unable to hang on to two-stroke lead in final round of Million Dollar Challenge

Price ignores red for danger

By JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT



Price celebrates with his caddy

TIGER WOODS and a red shirt seem destined to become as much a part of golf's lore as Ben Hogan and his white cap. Woods' latest dazzling escapade while wearing this colour came in Sun City yesterday, when he birdied the 72nd hole to force himself into a play-off with Nick Price in the Million Dollar Challenge over the Gary Player designed course.

When Woods won the Masters in 1997, he revealed that his mother regarded red as his colour, a power colour. Since then, he has worn shirts of this hue on the last day of tournaments, notably when he won his first strokeplay event outside the United States in 1998 — the Johnnie Walker Classic in Thailand — and, for a while yesterday, it looked as though he would round off his strokeplay events outside his home continent in 1998 with another victory.

Woods was level with Price, the

defending champion, after 54 holes on 207, nine under par, which put them four strokes behind Lee Westwood. Price had a dazzling burst of birdies midway through his round and by the time that Woods stood on the 14th tee, he was two strokes behind Price.

After the third round, Woods had said that he was very disappointed with his 67 because he felt he had not had any breaks. Some of that frustration remained evident during the last round. On the 70th hole, for example, Woods watched his tee shot end safely on the green but not near the flag and banged his club into the ground in frustration.

It did not matter. He got to within one stroke of Price and then, while Price made sure of his par on the 72nd hole, Woods chipped in with a deft stroke from the fringe of the green to match his rival's 66

and so force a sudden-death play-off. On the first extra hole, Woods deftly lobbed his ball over a bunker and holed from 6ft to match Price's par. On the next two holes, it was Price's turn to save pars with good work from around the greens. On the fourth extra hole, Price could have won the £600,000 first prize had he sunk a putt of 8ft — but he missed.

Price made no mistake when he and Woods reached the par four 17th for the third time in a couple of hours, sinking a 10ft putt for a birdie that ended Woods's challenge.

It was a third success in this event for Price, who finished 15 under par, one stroke ahead of Justin Leonard, whose four rounds were all in the sixes, and two in front of Mark O'Meara and Westwood.

At the start of the day, Westwood must have fancied his chances of

winning his eighth tournament in 1998. He led by two strokes and was 13 under par for his second and third rounds, scoring that no one else had been able to match.

He was hitting the ball straight and far and finding that the faster greens, increased in speed by welcome sunshine, were to his liking. The confidence of youth, which he has in considerable quantities, probably made him feel that the force was with him.

Yet the Westwood of the last round was not the Westwood who had played so well during the two previous days. His play, in fact, was rather similar to the first day, when nothing much had gone wrong and nothing much gone right. He had a 72 on Thursday and a 73 yesterday.

Any chances that Westwood had of catching Price disappeared on

the 15th, where he hit his drive into a bunker and failed to pick his second shot as clearly as was necessary and, as a result, it came up well short of the green. He failed to birdie any of the remaining holes.

Truth to tell, it was Price's remarkable play midway through his round that enabled him to overtake Westwood and defeat Woods. The applause for Price and Woods was such that it was hard to discern who was the more popular — Price, born and brought up in Zimbabwe and who has played so often in this event, or Woods, who has generated such interest in golf in non-traditional circles around the world and was competing in South Africa for the first time.

"It was really exciting for both us," Price, 41, said. "It really was. I don't know how we are going to top this. I said to Tiger: 'I've got a great future behind me. Yours is all ahead of you.'"



Woods agonises at near-miss

Adelaide ready to meet major demands

John Woodcock sees some of the world's best golfers struggle on testing course

THE Australian Open, which was won yesterday by Greg Chalmers, was a spectacular production, played on a controversially testing course before large crowds and in the most perfect weather. Only birdies were scarce, the winning aggregate exactly matching par.

To no one's surprise, Nick Faldo was the leading overseas player, in equal-fourth place. All week, he had been sweetness and light, especially after meeting Norman von Nida, the indomitable, irrepressible, diminutive Australian, now aged 84 and with poor sight, who used to make off with so many of our British tournaments in the years after the Second World War. In Adelaide, as a guest of the Australian golf writers, "The Von" approached Faldo, after seeing him take 77 in his first round, with more resilience than was once his wont, to tell him that he was holding the club too tightly with his top hand.

Next morning, Faldo, together with Finny Sunesson, his sturdy, assertive, loyal and ubiquitous caddy, sought out Von Nida for another session, whereafter the great champion played his last three rounds in two under the card. By loosening his left-hand grip, he gets a better takeaway and a generally smoother movement. If you try it yourself, even without a club, you will get the idea.

"The best tip I have ever had," Faldo said, though it would be easy for a cynic to wonder whether perhaps that was a remark tossed in the direction of David Leadbetter,

the renowned coach, whose services Faldo has recently dispensed with. "All in all, it has been a good week," Faldo said. "Every week's a good week for me." Von Nida said.

Yesterday, the winner was expected to be either Stuart Appleby or Faldo, who were playing together. Instead, Chalmers, looking more like a farmer's boy trudging off to milk the cows than a prospective winner of an open championship, stole a winning lead. Despite saying "I'm definitely back — and hitting the pressure shots now", Faldo began by missing enough pressure shots to reinforce one's fears that his nerves may no longer be made of tungsten.

One of the great clubs of Australia — and that is saying something — Royal Adelaide has taken the decision to become, if it can, one of the world's most challenging courses. Its officials see it as a means of getting on to the global circuit.

Not all the members approve, because it has left some with a course that they can no longer handle, but they keep their own counsel and were proud and encouraged to hear Faldo say that the Australian Open should become the fifth major of the year, to be bracketed with the British and US Opens, the Masters and the US PGA Championship.

It is a curious fact about golf in Australia that although their five biggest cities are all on the coast, there is only one top-class links in the country — La Ferrière, in Sydney — that is, if the true definition of a links



Faldo, who finished equal-fourth, was back on the march with the help of a useful tip

is that it should overlook the sea. There are, however, many great courses here, including the golden cluster along the Melbourne sandbelt, with most of the characteristics of a links.

Countless ages ago, Royal Adelaide was under the sea; hence the dunes and sandhills and the rolling fairways that could just as well be a more wooded Saunton in Devon.

Renowned as a hard taskmaster, Peter Thomson, one of Australia's golfing legends and a course architect in his retirement, was called up to reinforce Royal Adelaide's resistance to

the advances of modern technology. The resulting course, if not a monster, is certainly something of a colossus.

On the second day, Greg Norman took 82, the first three rounds of Fred Couples were 76, 76 and 75; John Huston, another highly successful American, started 75, 76, 81. "Thank God we only have to play in places as tough as this once a year, otherwise we'd give the game up," Appleby said at one stage. I wish them well at Royal Adelaide in their search for due recognition. It is a wonderful place to play golf. Amid all the carnage.

'Thank God we only have to play in places as tough as this once a year'

nothing was more painful to watch than poor Justin Rose's departure from the scene. He dropped five strokes in the last four holes of his second round on Friday, so missing the cut by one. He was only one stroke more than Couples and Norman at the time and he had held his game together so well until the wind and the severity of the course got to him.

I can see why his unaffectedness is so much remarked upon, but unfortunately it does not do the business. The mental turmoil in his swing, when he dragged his second shot on Friday into a dry and tufty ditch alongside the last green — another of Thomson's impositions — was no less expendable than some of the strokes that the England batsmen play.

Faldo finding contentment rather elusive

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN ADELAIDE

NICK FALDO expressed satisfaction with his golf but disaffection with the press after sharing fourth place in the Holden Australian Open at Royal Adelaide yesterday. He finished three shots behind Stuart Appleby, the 39-hole leader and sentimental favourite.

There would not have been a day eye in Australia if Appleby had won. He and his late wife Renay, who was killed in a freak accident outside Waterloo Station last July, still hold the course records at Royal Adelaide and the emotional force was with another family success here.

The golfing force, however, was with Chalmers, who surged into a lead he never

lost with birdies at the 2nd, 3rd and 4th. Out in 34, three under par, he was three clear of Appleby and Robert Allenby, four ahead of Peter Senior and Wayne Riley and five ahead of Faldo, the only non-Australian in sight.

In a fierce wind on Saturday, Chalmers had played the home-made nine in 32, three under par, a tour de force that helped set up his victory.

In the more benign breezes of yesterday, the 25-year-old from Perth wobbled towards the end and dropped two shots in the last four holes for a 70 that gave Appleby and Senior a glimmer of a chance.

They needed birdie three at the last to force a play-off but had to settle for pars and a share of second place, a shot behind the first left-hander to win this distinguished title since Claude Felstead in 1909.

Results — 42

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McEnroe delights as he beats shots fired from Noah's arc

THE 25,000 who attended the Seniors' Challenge over four days at Olympia last week are disciples of the creed that the best hang-over cure is the proverbial "Hair of the Dog". Nothing else explains the popularity of these dinosaurs, once the gladiators of a golden age, when Wimbledon was their personal fiefdom.

Well-heeled teenagers who revelled in their tantrums were the thirty-somethings who now flocked to Olympia to drink once again, from the cup of excess that was to render contemporary tennis a pale and painful imitation. They have been revived. The antics of artists like John McEnroe, whose palate blended the colours of fire and sublime light in equal measures, transported the galleries back to their youth.

Of course, McEnroe remains the centre of attention — much as he was during his visits to Wimbledon, where his perennial combustion fit up the skies of South West London. His on-court mastery still bewitches opponents on the seniors' tour, as amplified by his 7-5, 6-3 defeat of Yannick Noah in the final yesterday. Indeed, the bluntness of Head and developed into the biggest-selling racket today, offers these elder statesmen the opportunity to strike a mean ball for many years to come.

Julian Muscat finds that tennis in the twilight years is not all about winning

What the thirty-somethings of today witnessed during those intense rivalries of the late Seventies was a game still clinging to its roots. McEnroe's career revolved around a myriad of gut-wrenching duels with Bjorn Borg, Jimmy Connors and Ivan Lendl. It was a deeply personal form of combat that, when denied him, left McEnroe bereft of inspiration for the circuit's relentless treadmill.

There was one thing about McEnroe you either loved him or loathed him. One of the week's most evocative memories was the sight of Alan Mills, the referee both at

Olympia and, for many years, at Wimbledon, casting a disreputable eye over McEnroe from high above the court. Contrast that image with the lack of apocalyptic collisions between contemporary players and you can understand the public's ambivalence. The only worthy contemporary rivalry involves Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi — and that was essentially fashioned by their clothing sponsors.

This intrusion of commercial interests has helped to dilute the on-court impact of the modern-day player. That coupled with the military-like crackdown by officials in the wake of McEnroe's excesses, has rendered the players faceless, money-grabbing machines in the eyes of a once-doting public. Those who do not fit the modern mould had better beware, as Noah, the free-spirited French Open champion of 1983, was to testify so eloquently.

Like the crowds before which he played, Noah, 38, has rediscovered the game's essence after it once threatened to gobble him up and spit him out in an irreparable state of mastication.

"I was very depressed and lonely at 23," Noah reflected. "People told me that winning would bring me happiness,

They said: 'You're going to be rich and have glory. You're going to be happy. My son.' But that's not how I found it. A lot of people tried to tell me who I was, what I was supposed to do."

"I was so happy when I stopped playing," he continued. "I hadn't seen my parents for 20 years. It was a while before I got my life back under control, but, for four years, I never missed it. It was a survival thing. Thinking about winning is a disease that I don't want to have anymore. Now, I feel a lot of joy playing tennis, which is something I didn't think would ever come back. I thought I'd lost that forever."

Noah's words might be condemned these days as those of a loser, yet it was his inspirational captaincy, in 1991, that orchestrated France's Davis Cup triumph, their first for 59 years. The constraints preventing Noah from expressing himself on the court are those that have sanitised the contemporary game for spectators.

Of course, none of this applied in McEnroe's day. If Lendlers bent on a little nostalgia will pack Olympia for a sight of the ageing genius, one wonders what effect a gathering of Borg, Connors, Lendl and Superbrat himself would have if they were again given their heads at Wimbledon.

TENNIS: ITALIAN PAYS PRICE FOR COMMERCIALISATION OF DAVIS CUP

Gaudenzi shoulders blame

FROM ROB HUGHES IN MILAN

THE searing shoulder pain that forced Andrea Gaudenzi out of the Davis Cup final and caused the complete rupture of Italy's resistance against Sweden is symbolic of so much in tennis today. It is an institution on the brink of celebrating 100 years, started by Dwight Davis, the Harvard scholar, a true blue amateur, but now, of course, an event suffering relentless commercialisation.

That Sweden, winners of the trophy for the third time in five years and for the seventh time in all, should emerge victorious was almost certainly not affected by the drama that prevented Gaudenzi from completing the opening match. For subsequent events, Sweden dispatching Italy with an ice-cool lack of sympathy, showed clearly that this man had precious little support from his team. The red clay court had been built at the Milan Forum to suit his skills and, when he departed with so much anguish, the Italians turned from fanatical euphoria to disinterested almost overnight.

Yesterday, while the last two singles matches were played, national television abandoned the air time and showed old movies instead. At the height of the match on Friday between Gaudenzi and Magnus Norman, 3.8 million Italians were gathered around their sets and, believe it or not, there was a veritable black hole in Sweden, where Swedish television broadcasters had pulled

the plug, out of air time, with the score at 5-5 in the final set.

Alarmingly, there are some in the International Tennis Federation who see this as the signal to dispense with five-set matches on the first day of the Davis Cup, which would represent another capitulation to the demands of television. More important, and more human, is the burden that sport now places upon players. Gaudenzi will not know until he undergoes surgery tomorrow whether the tendon in his right shoulder will ever again be fit for top-flight tennis. He knew the risk, undergoing arthroscopic surgery and cortisone injections to mask the pain between September and December, and tried to take his place on court for the first time Italy had been granted the finals in its own country.

But it is dehumanising: the modern motto is take a painkiller, push the body to breaking point and count the dollars. So much for the noble ideal of Davis, who, one glance at his handsome, three-tiered trophy confirms, had the wealth to participate for the love of sport. One glance at Gaudenzi and at all the Italians in the arena as hope drained from them told of the other price. The body rebels against unremitting demands and maybe all those who point the finger at Pete Sampras — who, obeying the tennis decree that the

supreme player is the one who accumulates most points on the ATP computer and declined to represent the United States in this competition — should think again.

Now, of course, the heat is on and, with the United States scheduled to meet England in Birmingham in the first round of the centennial season next April, absolutely everyone will

RESULTS

Sweden 4 Italy 1
Friday
M. Norman (Den) vs A. Gaudenzi (I) 6-7, 7-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, ret.
M. Gustafsson (Swe) vs D. Sanguinetti (I) 6-1, 6-4, 6-0.
Saturday
J. Bjorkman and N. Pietrangeli (I) vs D. Hargreaves and S. Pietrangeli (Swe) 7-6, 6-1, 6-3.
Sunday
Gaudenzi vs G. Pizzetti (I) 6-4, 6-2.
Hargreaves vs Norman 6-2, 6-3.

expect him to do his duty. It is not for nothing. The American Davis Cup players earn a fee of \$25,000 (£15,000) each for each round, in addition to the kudos and the willingness of sponsors to become involved. The Italians had, had, back their negotiations, hoping that they could deal from strength, until the final was over.

So, when we listen to the old players, to the "ambassadors" who are now helping to spread the gospel of the meaning of the Davis Cup, remember that we live in changed times. Vijay Amritraj, Boris

Becker, Stefan Edberg, John Newcombe, Yannick Noah, Nicola Pietrangeli and Stan Smith are the magnificent seven who pay homage to a tournament that began at Longwood Cricket Club in Boston between the United States and the British Isles in 1900. Becker flew to Milan in his own private jet on Saturday, attended press conferences, suggested privately that had he been in the dilemma of Gaudenzi he would have served underarm and then flew out again, his next call a birthday party.

He left one other ambassador to breathe the commitment that Gaudenzi had been prepared to risk his career for. Nikk Pietrangeli, who played more Davis Cup matches, 164, than any other player, said: "In tennis, only the Davis Cup gives you the opportunity to belong, to be part of a team. Not only that, I think young players should learn a little more about Davis Cup. In any sport, even in life, you learn from history."

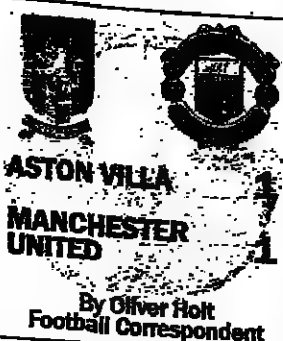
The history lesson in Milan was that drugs are dangerous to health. The International Tennis Federation reassured Juan Antonio Samaranch, the president of the International Olympic Committee, that tennis supports the initiative against drugs, against cheats, to the hilt, yet all of them allow the injection of painkilling drugs, used most by a sportsman in his most vulnerable in a hundred years, we have confused even the basic issue.



McEnroe: victorious again

FA Carling Premiership: Form of Joachim leaves Gregory with selection poser

Villa prove credentials are genuine



OUTSIDE, in the narrow patch of car park that separates the dressing-room area from the players' bar, Gareth Southgate stopped for a minute to reflect on the value of the point Aston Villa had just gained. "I've just told the boys that we're only four wins away from safety now," the Villa captain said. "It's the old Crystal Palace mentality creeping in."

If they had lost to Manchester United on Saturday, it would have been a capitulation that mirrored their fall to Liverpool a fortnight earlier, then perhaps the rest of the Villa players, too, could have been forgiven for turning their eyes away from the lofty heights that their gaze has been fixed on since the start of the season.

It would not have been the end of their championship aspirations — nothing in football, apart from the fact that Wimbledon are not going to be relegated, is decided by December — but it would have been a psychological blow to lose to a United team that has one eye on its crucial European Cup Champions' League tie against Bayern Munich on Wednesday.

Instead, United took over at the top of the FA Carling Premiership for all of eight minutes on Saturday before Villa got the equaliser that pushed them back in front. They will face their own Waterloo on Wednesday, too, against Chelsea at Stamford Bridge. Then it is Arsenal at Villa Park on Sunday.

Despite that massing of the enemy, Villa's performance against United, the fact that they were just about the better team and certainly created more clear-cut chances, suggests they may still be the Christmas No 1. Everyone thought they were sprinters in a distance race, but suddenly they are beginning to look like marathon men.

It was the strength of their midfield against what is commonly



Joachim, centre, who capped a fine individual performance with a goal, gives Neville, left, and Schmeichel cause for concern at Villa Park on Saturday

regarded as the best unit in the country that seemed particularly encouraging for the maintenance of their challenge. Even if it was *forma majore* that led to the inclusion of Alan Thompson in a central three, with Wright and Watson at wing back, the formation lent the home team a cohesion that has been lacking since they tried to accommodate Collymore, Dublin and Merson in the starting line-up.

Merson's back injury and Collymore's suspension allowed John Gregory, the Villa manager, to revert to the system that started the season and they looked a different side because of it. Not as cavalier, perhaps, not as boccioneering or creative, but not as vulnerable to the lightning counter-attacks that are

United's speciality, either. Their solidity prevented the match turning into the free-scoring classic that many had predicted, but Villa were the better for it. Thompson, with Southgate and Julian Joachim, was at the heart of Villa's best play. Combative, unyielding and ceaselessly determined, Thompson, Taylor and Hendrie were more than a match for Keane and Paul Scholes.

"It was important to be solid today," Southgate said, "and the way we played has given the manager a nice problem, because he has got good players who will probably be back on Wednesday. We can be pleased with how we performed, but we have just got to make sure that we don't throw it all away in the next two games."

United's players are used to the opposition raising their game every time they play against them, but today was the first time that the focus of the nation was on us and we came through it well. We are disappointed we didn't win and that is a measure of how far we have come."

Gregory will now have to think long and hard before his team selection on Wednesday. It would be prudent for him to sacrifice either Collymore or Merson. If he has recovered, for the balance of the team. The way Joachim has played in the past two games, he may be forced to leave them both out.

After Rhigo had headed wide from Hendrie's corner midway through the first half, it was Joachim's run and pass that creat-

ed Villa's first clear opportunity to take the lead. Hendrie ran on to his cross and danced past Sam, but he and Taylor got in each other's way in their eagerness to administer the final touch and United managed to hack the ball to safety.

Scholes put United ahead two minutes after half-time, hammering the ball back past Oakes with his left foot after the Villa goalkeeper had only been able to push Cole's cross into his path. Joachim restored equality in the 55th minute when his shot from the edge of the area ballooned up off Irwin's instep and spiralled over Schmeichel.

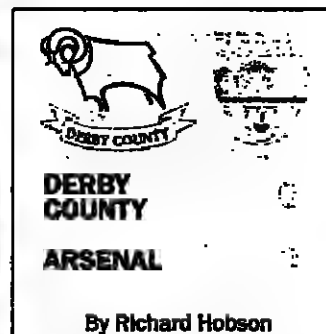
Thereafter, Villa were the better team. Joachim went desperately close with a skimming shot from 25 yards after Southgate had broken

from defence, but although both sides played some wonderfully neat, slick stuff, models of control and accuracy, the game never really burst into life.

Thompson's thunderous free kick midway through the second half was the closest either team came to a winner, but it cannoned off the meat of Schmeichel's left-hand post with the United goalkeeper rooted to the spot. "But for the width of a coat of paint, the game would have been ours," Steve Harrison, the Villa coach, said.

ASTON VILLA (2-2): M. Oakes — U. Ebiogu, G. Southgate, G. Barry — S. Watson, L. Hendrie, J. Taylor, A. Thompson, A. Wright — J. Joachim, D. Dublin. **MANCHESTER UNITED (4-2):** P. Schmeichel — W. Brown, J. Sains, G. Neville, D. Irwin — D. Beckham, R. Keane, P. Scholes, J. Barnes (sub: R. Gigg, 46min) — D. Yorke, A. Cole (sub: N. Butt, 70). **Referee:** M. Riley.

Plans for a Christmas party cheer Wenger



ARSENE WENGER resembles a man with a leaking roof who has placed a bucket underneath the drip and knows the plumber is on his way. A holding operation is in place and the problem should be rectified in time for Christmas.

By the time that West Ham United visit Highbury on Boxing Day, the Arsenal manager expects Vieira, Petit and Bergkamp to have recovered from injury and, unless results alter for the worse in the next fortnight, the catching-up required when he can desist from fielding a weakened team will be within the compass of the FA Carling Premiership champions.

A gradual decline in the European Cup Champions' League has rendered the final fixture against Panathinaikos on Wednesday more of a distraction than a challenge. Forthcoming league games against Aston Villa and Leeds United are a greater priority.

December 26 marks the midpoint of the season. At that stage last year, Arsenal sat in sixth place and hardly looked capable of topping Manchester United, the leaders at the time. Suddenly, the midfield partnership of Vieira and Petit clicked. Overmars began to whistle past defenders and Anelka flourished to such an extent that Ian Wright was considered to be disposable.

"I think we are better placed than this time last year," Wenger, who expects to sign his new contract within the next two days, said. "We had a spell then as well when we could not score goals, but at least now we are not losing games."



Anelka: shouldering burdens

Whether Wright should have been allowed to leave remains as contentious an issue now as it became during the summer. Nobody can say with certainty that his presence at Pride Park on Saturday would have made the difference between one and three points for Arsenal, but he could not have created any fewer problems for the Derby County defence than Wreh or Boa Morito. Other than Anelka, trying fortitously to fulfil Bergkamp's role as well as his own, only Petit has scored in the last eight league games. Wright, surely, would have been on hand when Poom palmed away a cross-shot by Anelka early on.

As the impressive Bohinen, Errando and Wanchope all burst towards the edge of the Arsenal penalty area in the opening ten minutes it appeared that Derby would enjoy the space to repeat their success of the previous November. Wanchope faltered twice from excellent positions, however, before the game petered out forgettably.

DERBY COUNTY (3-5-2): M. Poom — S. Piro, H. Carterman, J. Laursen — R. Debbi, L. Bohinen, S. Errando (sub: V. Harper, 71min), D. Powell, A. Dorog — D. Stumpe, P. Wanchope. **ARSENAL (4-4-2):** D. Seaman — L. Dixon, M. Newman, S. Bould, R. Vieira — R. Piro, G. Gerrard, R. Garcia (sub: F. Lundberg, 69), M. Overmars — C. Wreh (sub: L. Boa Morito, 77), N. Anelka. **Referee:** M. Reed.

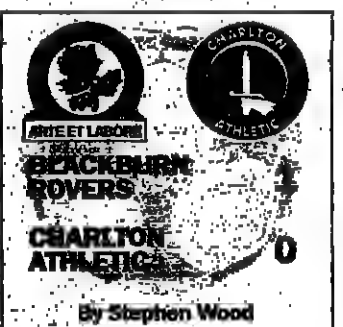
Kidd's new adventure begins on right lines

THE first few words were premeditated and awkward, but by the time he drove away from Ewood Park, his voice hoarse from a manic first day at work, he had a captivated audience. The first steps that the players of Blackburn Rovers took in front of their new manager were confused, but by the time he had confronted them, Blackburn were off the bottom of the FA Carling Premiership table. As Brian Kidd said: "I'm a quick learner."

Such was the impact of Kidd's debut as manager of Blackburn, two days after he turned his back on the familiarity of coaching at Manchester United. It was an adventure that will soon become a job, but, nevertheless, Kidd showed that he had the wherewithal to cope with what Alex Ferguson, the United manager, describes as the "other 101 things you have to do when you are in charge".

Kidd, an essentially quiet and modest man, has always liked a laugh and joke, but few outside the confines of Old Trafford knew what he sounded like. He is no Oscar Wilde, but his first press conference as a high-profile figure showed him to be comfortable with the responsibility, with an eagerness to be honest and direct.

As the excitement of victory over Charlton Athletic coarsed through him, he offered various quips, opening with a perfectly timed "I'm resigning" and finishing with a response to his former mentor's regime at United. "There's no way



I'm getting into training at 7am," he said. "I need my beauty sleep."

Having begun the game sitting next to Jack Walker, the owner of Blackburn and the man whose financial power should ease any early problems, Kidd took 13 minutes to venture down to the bench. Thereafter, he spent much of the afternoon bawling out directions to his bemused players. The idea was to get the back four playing closer together, with the full backs tucking in when necessary, negating a system that Roy Hodgson, the previous manager, had used.

"These lads have been doing one thing for 16 months and now they have to try and get used to what I want," Kidd said. "It's not easy, but it doesn't take a rocket scientist to understand, either."

Perhaps not, but Stéphane Henchoz, the Switzerland defender, admitted afterwards that he needed Kidd to draw a diagram on the blackboard at half-time to confirm the

message. Indeed, although this was an overnight success, Kidd realises that sustained improvement will take time. He said that he "could not wait" to get to training this morning, his first session, but he must be wondering where to start.

Persuading Tim Sherwood and Chris Sutton, possible transfer targets for other clubs, that he is the man to revitalise their fortunes is a priority. Kidd maintained on Saturday night that none of his players were for sale and that he did not want any to leave.

Another crucial task for Kidd will be to help to transform the confidence of Kevin Davies, the striker who cost £7.25 million this summer. Davies had not scored a senior goal since January, let alone for Blackburn, but his 75th-minute strike changed all that. The shot squirmed through the legs of Sasa Ilic, the Charlton goalkeeper, but Davies deserved a break.

All of Kidd's work will be done with a sense of humour, something that will be reinforced by Brian McClair, an ally from their United days, is confirmed as his assistant this week. The contrast in mood to the one brought by Hodgson should help Blackburn to avoid relegation.

BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-4-2): A. Fieffe — G. Croft, S. Henchoz, C. Doherty, D. Johnston, W. McGee, D. Dunn (sub: M. Beames, 80min), D. Duff — K. Ballacher (sub: K. Davies, 41), N. Blake. **CHARLTON ATHLETIC (4-4-2):** S. Ilic — D. Miller, R. Potts, E. Younis, C. Power — J. Robinson, M. Knowles, N. Redmond, P. Mortimer — C. Mendonca, A. Hart. **Referee:** G. Poll.

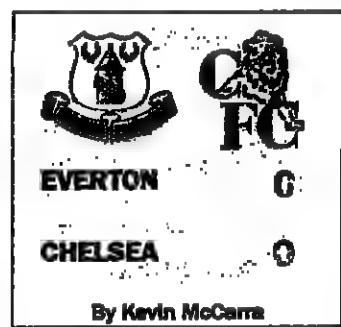
Foolhardy Wise faces an uncertain future

TEAMS and individuals are imprisoned by their own characters. A much-improved Everton rattle the bars until they almost come loose, but, at Goodison Park, cannot break out to establish themselves as goalscorers. If they continue to knock passes around as they did on Saturday, Walter Smith's side will eventually overcome the obstacles that exist in their minds.

By contrast, the barriers before Dennis Wise appear to be insurmountable and, for the third time this season, the Chelsea captain was sent off. He had just completed a four-match suspension and ought to have taken the field with angelic intentions. If he did, his wings were soon clipped when, in the third minute, he brought down Cadamarteri and was booked.

Later, Wise clashed with Marco Materazzi and Gary Willard, the referee, spotted the off-the-ball incident. With nine minutes of the first half left, the midfield players' involvement ended. When Chelsea supporters speak of Wise's long service, his character and his role as keeper of the club's identity, they tend, unwittingly, to depict him as a man whose era is over.

The praise sounds like a eulogy for the departed. Wise will be 32 next week and even if he had iron self-discipline, it might still be a challenge to hold his place. Given that he is as mired in controversy as ever, Gianluca Vialli, the Chelsea player-manager, may have to discard him.



Willard was a martinet and had the distinction of showing Tore Andre Flo, the Chelsea centre forward, his first yellow card since he came to England more than a year ago, but the key decisions were correct. Richard Dunne, the Everton defender, was also ordered off, in the 76th minute, for a second bookable offence, when he floored Flo.

The long stretch in which Chelsea were outnumbered showed Vialli's team to advantage. When Desailly moved into midfield while Duberry came on to join Leboeuf and the flawless Ferrer in a three-man defence, the visitors offered calm resistance. Despite the clichés about flighty foreigners, Chelsea have a defensive record bettered only by Arsenal in the FA Carling Premiership.

That might have been the basis for victory, since Flo had excellent chances. That beapole look is fading as his physique thickens with maturity, but the degree of

strength that he tried to apply was excessive. Put through by Petrescu, after 78 minutes, he sacrificed accuracy for power and sent the shot wide.

There were galling moments for Chelsea, with Roberto Di Matteo seeing an attempt deflected on to the post, but the sharpness of Everton's passing deserved a reward. The monotony and futility of their direct style is gone now that Duncan Ferguson has been sold to Newcastle United.

One could sense the relief of a midfield that felt free to distribute the ball rather than simply launch it. Collins, in particular, excelled, proving that effective tackling is as much a matter of technique as his ability to build moves. All the same, it came to nothing for Everton. There are merits in losing Ferguson, but a telling partnership in attack is still to be found.

Bakayoko was muted and Cadamarteri, despite his pace and enthusiasm, clumsy of touch. Everton will have to sell to raise funds for signings and the future of Billie, who has been confined to the substitutes' bench, must be in question. Ferguson has left and Peter Johnson is no longer chairman, but the revolution at Goodison may claim more victims yet.

EVERTON (3-5-2): T. Myhre — G. Short, M. Materazzi, P. R. Dunne — A. Cleland, A. Grant, D. Hutchinson, J. Collins, M. Ball — D. Cadamarteri, I. Bakayoko. **CHELSEA (4-4-2):** E. de Goey — A. Ferrer, M. Desailly, F. Leboeuf, C. Duberry — D. Petrescu, D. Wise, R. D. Matteo, G. Potts (sub: M. Duberry, 33min) — T. A. Flo, G. Zola (sub: B. Goldberg, 62). **Referee:** D. Willard.

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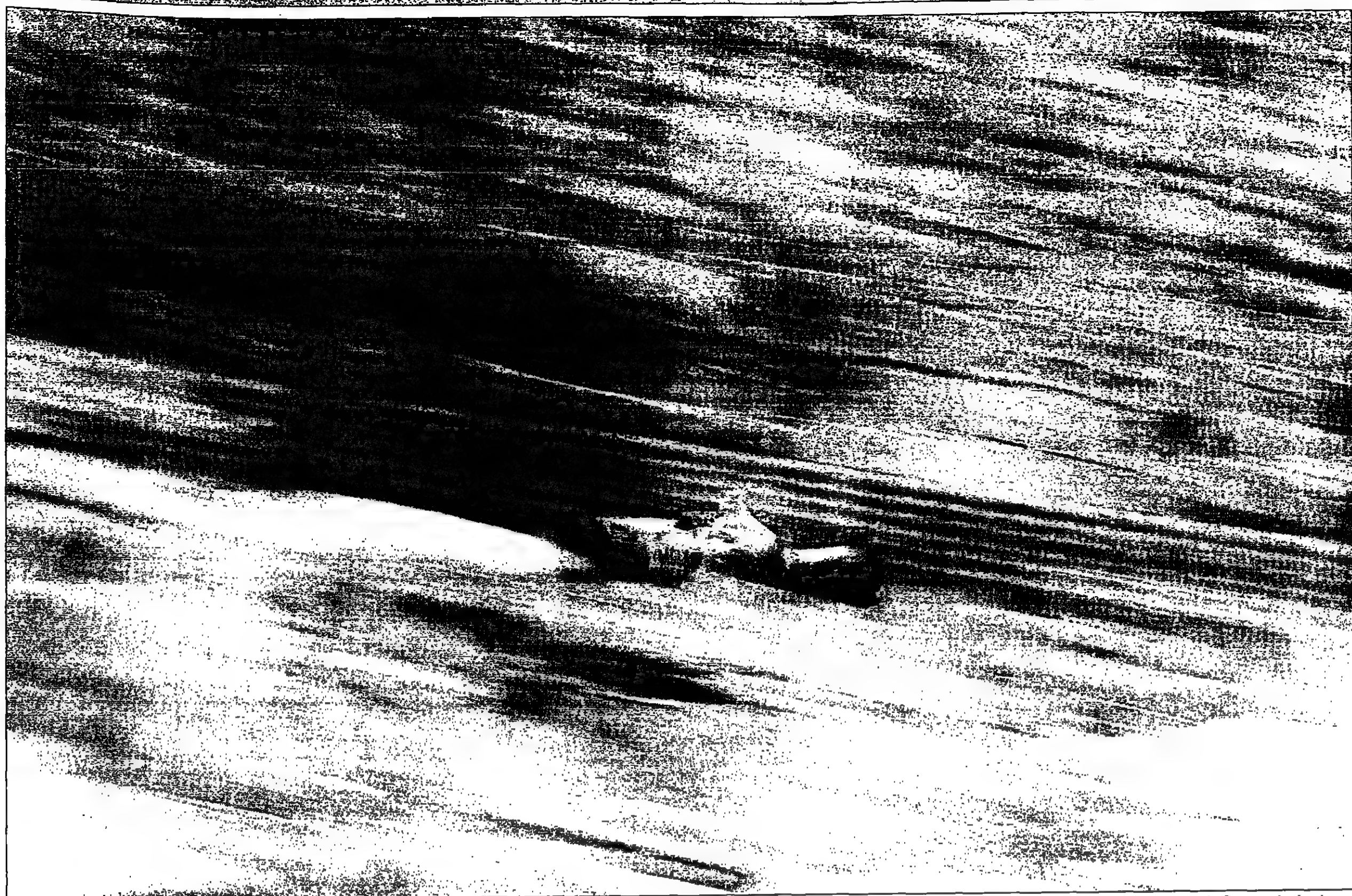
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THROUGH THE EYES OF DAMON HILL



"One of the main reasons that Eddie Jordan was so keen to sign me was for my experience of having won races." Hill proved his worth in the flying yellow Jordan last season, driving quickly and giving the team its first grand prix win

Why I turned down McLaren's offer

The prospect of a performance-related deal as Mika Hakkinen's deputy held little appeal for Damon Hill. Then, after a chance meeting with Eddie Jordan, the opportunity came to join a team with plenty going for it

There was a bitter-sweet aspect to my championship-winning year in 1996 because I had already lost my job with Williams when I lifted the title. There was nothing to be gained by moping about being bumped out of Williams, so I made it my objective to get a seat at McLaren, which was clearly going to be the best place to go.

Why was I so certain of that? Simple — Adrian Newey would be designing the car and they were a solid, well-established team. In my mind, those two facts alone were enough to convince me that McLaren would be the best car in 1998 and they would present me with my best chance of winning the championship again.

I had several approaches at the end of 1996, including one from Eddie Jordan, but I was hedging my bets. I wanted to find a team where I could be happy for a year, hopefully be competitive and then get myself into McLaren for the following season. That was the plan and that was where Tom Walkinshaw came in.

He offered me a contract that did not tie me in for two or five years. I thought it gave us both what we wanted: he had the world champion, I had a one-year deal.

When I joined Arrows in 1997, I was confident that this was a team on the move, one that was going to improve quickly. I had it in mind that if I couldn't get into McLaren, then Arrows could be a place where I could think about staying. But it was evident that the performance of Arrows was not going ahead fast enough for me to win races for them the following year. That was clear as soon as Tom failed to get the Honda engine. For a long while, he expected to do the deal, but another team tied it up before him — Jordan. Looking back, perhaps I put too much faith in Tom and the team, because things did not turn out well.

I had kept in contact with Ron Dennis, McLaren's managing director, and spoken to him regularly. He knew how much I wanted to drive for his team and how keen I was to do a deal. Talking about it was one thing, though: finalising it was quite another.

I had met Ron and he seemed keen for me to join the team. Then I got an offer — and it took me by surprise.

During my discussions with Ron, I made it clear that there were certain things I expected. I am not motivated by money, but, equally, that is one of the

ways drivers are ranked in the sport and if you offer to drive for nothing, then that is your perceived worth as a Formula One driver. I didn't want to break his bank, by any means, but I wanted to be sure he was as committed to me as I would be to his team.

The facts are that I am a world champion and I expected to be paid a retainer that reflected that. I also expected to be treated as well as the other driver in the team because I felt I was at least as good as anybody in Formula One. When he (Dennis) finally got back to me, his offer was way below what we had discussed. For one thing, he wanted me to accept a contract that said I only got paid if I won races. There were no bonuses for scoring points, nothing for coming second or third and nothing if I was winning when the car failed. And that happened a lot to McLaren in the 1997 season, when the Mercedes engine proved to be very unreliable.

The bottom line was that I could turn up at races, get pole position, lead the race for all but one lap then have the car break down and I would walk away without being paid a penny for my efforts.

In fact, the contract I was offered would mean me earning less money than my teammates, who I was told would be Mika Hakkinen. Ron is very close to Mika and has been ever since Hakkinen survived a massive crash while driving

a McLaren in Adelaide in 1998. Although Ron prides himself on never favouring one driver over another, I had the distinct impression that, if I drove for him, it would be as Hakkinen's deputy. There was no way I could accept that.

I have nothing against Mika. He is a very fast driver with a lot of talent and I would have been quite happy to have been in the team with him, but I was not going to be his support act. At the time I was talking to Ron about going to McLaren, I had won 21 grands prix and a world championship; Mika had never so much as won a Formula One race, yet he was the guy who was going to be earning more money.

One other worrying concern was that he would not talk beyond a one-year deal. I took this to suggest that I would just be warming up the seat for Michael Schumacher,



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something else I was not prepared to do.

I don't think he ever wanted to change things round with his drivers. Mercedes, who make their engines, were happy with David Coulthard and Mika Hakkinen's image and I was even told the pair were popular with Mercedes because they looked German. I didn't know whether to laugh or cry!

The more I thought about it, the more it seemed that Ron only wanted to give people the impression that he had negotiated with me and that it was me who had scuppered the deal. Ron presented me with an offer that he knew I was not going to accept and then, when I turned him down, he was able to shrug his shoulders and blame me. Whatever else you might think of him, there is no denying that Ron is one of the most manipulative operators in the sport.

So that was it. With McLaren out of the way, I had some good offers to look at. Sauber had offered me a substantial deal, but I was not convinced the car would be competitive.

That left me three choices: Tom Walkinshaw, Jordan and Prost. Tom did not have a competitive engine sorted out, so that knocked him out of the running. I came very close to joining Prost. I had one big problem with the whole thing though: I was the only *Rosini* in a French team and when I voiced those fears, I was not given any reassurance by Alain that my fears were un-

founded. Maybe I was being paranoid, because I am sure all the people at Prost are perfectly nice, but when you have been through some experiences in Formula One, that is enough to make you look at every aspect of a deal with a very fine-toothed comb. I stacked it up and knew that I would not be comfortable.

Alain was very upset and he made that clear to various people, including the French press. That took me by surprise because I had not expected him to be so bitter and so public with his feelings. We had been team-mates and he was a man I admire a hell of a lot, but he should have dealt with it better.

Amid everything else he said to journalists, Alain came out with the old line about me only being interested in money. In fact, Alain got his facts wrong. There was very little difference between the retainer he was offering me and the amount I took from Eddie. Both of them offered a lot less than Peter Sauber and Alain's offer was barely half the sum that Tom had offered me. So much for only looking at the bottom line.

Then I had some good luck. After the Italian Grand Prix in Monza, I was planning to get a lift back to England in Tom Walkinshaw's plane. The problem was that by the time I got to the airport, Tom had already left. I was stranded until, like a Good Samaritan, Eddie appeared to offer me a lift back and, as good fortune would have it, all the key people were on board from the team and from Gallaher, the tobacco company that sponsors Jordan through the Benson & Hedges brand.

We didn't do the deal in mid-air, but by the time I got off the plane, Eddie had made me an exciting offer and the people around him had backed everything up. In such a way, Formula One conducts its life — private jets, clandestine meetings and last-minute deals.

Jordan seemed to have everything going for it. Eddie's approach to the sport is healthy and this has rubbed off on the rest of the team. They wanted to be competitive and they were desperate to win their first grand prix, but they were not going to lose their sense of humour.

There was a chance to go down in history as the first man to win a race behind the wheel of a Jordan car. It was all too much to resist: I wanted to drive for Jordan.

SPA PROVIDES THE PERFECT TONIC FOR DRIVER AND TEAM

One of the main reasons that Eddie Jordan was so keen to sign me was for my experience of being at the front of having won races and dealt with the pressure.

Spa has always been a good race for Jordan. A victory at the Belgian Grand Prix did not look likely but a good performance did. I think I was sixth at the first turn and in a grandstand seat to see the early stages of the 13-car pile-up. On the opening laps, I was able to draw out a lead and things were looking good. Everything was playing into my hands — and that was when the rain started to fall again.

Schumacher caught up and started to harry me. Much as I was sorry to lose the lead, I had to let him go. In Belgium, he seems to have some kind of control over the weather, as if he has his hand clenched over the top of a mighty tap. I hit a car but kept going. Michael did the same thing, albeit with more force, and knocked himself out of the race. From those two across sprung my first win for two seasons and Jordan's first victory.

The visibility during the race was terrible, but I had to push to stay ahead of Ralf (Schumacher). Fisichella slammed into the back of Nakano's Minardi, ripping apart his Benetton, and the safety car came out cutting



Hill's chief threat at Spa came from his Jordan team-mate

the 15-second lead I had enjoyed over Ralf. Now Ralf was on my tail, and, at the same time, George, my wife was on the phone to Michael Breen, my lawyer, asking him to plead with somebody to get the race stopped because she had seen enough. She was a nervous wreck, not because I was winning, but because of all the accidents.

My fear was that Ralf, who was suing Jordan for the right to leave for Williams, would feel under no obligation to obey team orders. With ten laps to go, he might see this as a chance to win and, if he tried to overtake me at the restart, we could both end up in the gravel.

It was a risk for the team and, of course, there was the selfish aspect that I lost my

15-second lead because of the safety car and I didn't want to lose out to Ralf because of that. I got on the radio and said: "Tell Eddie, it's up to him. We can race for this and there will be a chance neither of us will finish, or he can tell Ralf to hold station and that way we stand a chance of getting a one-two."

When the decision came, it was to tell Ralf to back off. I was relieved but not completely convinced he would accept it. So, when the safety car went in, I legged it into the first corner. As I crossed the line, I was elated — for Eddie, the team and for myself. This was my first win in a car other than a Williams and there have been few drivers who have gone from one team to another and continued to win.



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SNOOKER

Hendry makes slow progress

FROM PHIL YATES
IN BUGGISA, MALTA

WHEN, as in the case of Stephen Hendry, you have amassed the unprecedented sum of £5,732,307 in total career prize-money, £6,000 is little more than pocket money. That was the amount on offer for the winner of the Rothmans Malta Grand Prix here last night, but there is more to snooker at the top level than short-term financial considerations.

Hendry went into the final of the invitation event against Ken Doherty, of Ireland, determined to record his 67th professional tournament win and thereby continue to rebuild his fragile confidence.

In common with the game's other leading practitioners, it is a busy end to 1998 for Hendry. Today, he left the Mediterranean for the decidedly chillier climes of Bingen, host town of the German Masters. Next week, he travels to Dublin to compete in the Irish Open, the closing ranking event of what has been a disappointing year for the six-times world champion.

Overcoming Doherty, who ended Hendry's 29-match unbeaten sequence at the Crucible Theatre by prevailing in the final of the 1997 world championship there, would have much wider significance for the Scot than just collecting another trophy engraved with his name.

However, Doherty, who highlighted his 5-4 quarter-final victory over Jimmy White with century breaks in consecutive frames, and followed up by beating Mark Williams 6-2 in the semi-finals, opened the match as favourite to retain the title that he had captured by defeating John Higgins last year.

On the way to untroubled but also uninspiring wins over Joe Grech and Alex Borg, Hendry displayed the chronic inconsistency that has been a feature of his game of late. "At times I was satisfied, at others I definitely wasn't. I'm still a long way from where I should be," Hendry admitted after beating Borg 6-2 in the semi-finals on Saturday.

"I've just got to keep working at things. Suddenly a game that has always come so naturally is hard graft. I feel a lot better on the practice table, but, up until now, I haven't translated that into a competitive situation."

CRICKET: ENGLAND CAPTAIN REGAINS FORM WITH CENTURY AGAINST BACKCLOTH OF LOCAL INDIFFERENCE

Stewart increases nuisance value

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN MELBOURNE

MELBOURNE (second day of four): Victoria, with five first-innings wickets in hand, are 196 runs behind England XI

THE echoing emptiness of the Melbourne Cricket Ground was an appropriate backdrop yesterday to a game that had been mutually condemned before it began. England, for whom there are to be four days seeking retraining and reassurance, had a substantially better weekend than Victoria, who plainly found the fixture a confounding nuisance, but it was an unfulfilling spectacle.

A fortnight on Saturday, this vast ground will throb to its Boxing Day beat: 80,000 are expected for the first day of the fourth Test. Barely 2,000 filed through the gates yesterday and many were left dozing in the sunshine as England's reserve bowlers struggled to dismiss Victoria's reserve batsmen.

Modern tours invariably suffer such a hiatus, for international cricket is now so all-consuming that the peripheral games have lost their appeal. The touring side treats them as an enhanced net session and the locals, with more profit and prestige available elsewhere, leave out their best players. English counties have led the way in this, so it is invidious to complain if Australian states now imitate.

This match seems to be especially irrelevant, for Victoria have taken contemporary custom to extremes by crisscrossing eight of their first-choice side, while England, with a squad now swollen to an unwieldy 18, have chosen for convenience rather than competitiveness. All this is leading irrevocably in one direction — first-class games between Tests will soon be virtually a thing of the past.

The gains for England have been led by the Saturday century of Alec Stewart. It was only his second in first-class cricket this year and it brought relief to a man not known for betraying deep emotions. Stewart has been genuinely concerned

by his lack of runs on tour and by the constant reminders of his poor record against Australia. This innings was a start, a comfort, a reacquaintance with harmony between eyes, hands and feet.

Aside from an inconclusive 19 by Graham Thorpe, a recital of fitness rather than form, the England batting had a familiar look. Mark Ramprakash stayed in for more than four hours and the tailenders were scarcely in long enough to take guard. In this, at least, it might as well have been a Test match.

Ramprakash has become England's most adhesive batsman and, in a team with so many frailties, he can hardly be criticised for being one-paced. As usual, he was vigilance itself. The surprise was his dismissal, caught behind

Peter Bowler has resigned as captain of Somerset after two seasons in the job. The 35-year-old opening batsman felt his recent form no longer justified his position at the county. Somerset are likely to name an external successor, possibly an overseas player.

as he probed uncertainly forward an hour into the second day.

Before this, England had stood proud at 350 for five, but ten overs were all it took them to lose their remaining wickets. It says much about the frequency of these declines that they have now lost the capacity to startle or enrage, yet, against such uncomplaisant bowling, it was still a spineless exhibition.

Ben Hollis had waited seven weeks to play a first-class innings and it did not last long, even if his leg-before decision may have been suspiciously leg-side. Dean Headley misjudged the slowness of the pitch and Angus Fraser slogged Davidson, the off spinner, to deep square leg.

Amid all this, Graeme Hick

was also out, leaving him wondering if 67 would be enough to secure his place for the Adelaide Test. He has surely overtaken John Crawley, who failed again on Saturday, but his fate depends on England's choice of balance: he will play as one of seven batsmen, but not as one of six.

Hick's wicket fell to Ashley Gilbert, who, among many virtual unknowns in the state side, could never pass unnoticed. At 6ft 10in, he is among the tallest of all first-class cricketers, not to mention the most ungainly. A year ago, he had been sacked by his Melbourne club team and headed disenchantedly for the racetrack in his leisure hours.

Lured back by a new club, he lost weight, gave up smoking, took a part-time job reading gas meters and set about proving that he could turn improbable height to advantage. This is his state debut and the wickets of Hick and Nasser Hussain suggest that he will not be giving up again just yet.

While the collapse ran its commonplace course, the England fitness staff had the non-players running up and down among the picnic tables in front of the dressing-rooms. Dean Jones, the former Australian batsman, remarked in his television commentary that England might be better advised practising their catching, a comment that brought David Lloyd, the coach, hurrying around to inform Jones how many hours — often unusual, early-morning hours — are spent on fielding drills.

For once, his men did not let him down. Stewart quickly pounced Matthew Mott and Graeme Vimpani was held at slip by Thorpe, with encouraging agility for one with a back condition. Both wickets fell to Headley, who convincingly outbowed Fraser in what may yet prove an audition for the final Test place.

Headley stayed involved with a direct hit from mid-on to run out Aramberger off Hollis, whose next ball removed Brad Hodge leg-before as he offered no shot to an inswinger. Hollis, having begun with the rustiness of one who last bowled competitively in September, improved notably before spilling his second spell with a series of no-balls.

By then, Robert Croft had deceived Jason Bakker in flight to leave Victoria at 87 for five. This, though, was to be England's last success of a disappointing evening, in which Croft's prospects of playing in Adelaide on Friday were poorly advertised on a pitch offering him some help.



Headley celebrates having Mott caught behind at the start of the Victoria innings

SCOREBOARD FROM MELBOURNE

ENGLAND XI: First Innings	
M A Atherton c Craig b Innes	46
M P Mott c Stewart b Headley	8
N Hussain c Thorpe b Headley	11
* A J Stewart not out	126
* B A Gilchrist c Thorpe b Davidson	18
M R Ramprakash c Stewart b Bakker	78
G A Hick b b Gilbert	67
B C Hollis b b Gilbert	5
P J Rouse not out	0
D W Howley c Williams b Bakker	0
A R C Fraser c Williams b Davidson	0
Extras (b 8, w 1, nb 1)	10
Total	379

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-26, 2-33, 3-46, 4-125, 5-147, 6-161, 7-162, 8-162, 9-162
BOWLING: Williams 27-7-84-1, Gilbert 28-7-53-2, Innes 31-10-46-1, Bakker 20-4-45-3, Davidson 19-27-12, Craig 2-0-3-0

VICTORIA: First Innings	
J L Aramberger not out	18
M P Mott c Stewart b Headley	8
J R Bakker c Thorpe b Headley	11
* B A Gilchrist not out	4
S A J Craig not out	39
J R Bakker c Headley b Croft	39
P J Rouse not out	54
Extras (b 4, nb 17)	21
Total (8 wickets)	177

FALL OF WICKETS	1-4, 2-24, 3-43, 4-43, 5-67, 6-67
BOWLING	Headley 17-2-34-2, Fraser 15-5-30-7, Hollis 11-0-43-1, Croft 21-4-48-1, Ramprakash 5-2-18-0
Umpires	T A Pate and G D Morris

HOCKEY

Kerly finds style to his taste

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN

AMONG the stronger teams that qualified for the fifth round of the EHA Men's Cup yesterday were Canterbury, who trounced Pelicans, from the East League premier division, 8-1. Stuart Humphries scored a hat-trick.

Canterbury were more convincing than on the previous day at Bournemouth, where they scraped through their National League premier division match with a 6-5 victory. "We were a bit sleepy and when we woke up we were 4-0 down," Sean Kerly, the player-manager, said.

Five goals by Mathews meant that Canterbury eventually won with only three minutes to spare. Kerly himself did his bit in the cup match yesterday by adding two goals.

Reading and Old Loughboroughs both won comfortably — Reading scoring six goals without reply against Richmond, while Old Loughboroughs defeated Nottingham 3-1.

Old Cranleighans, who had defeated Hampstead 4-1 in the previous round, claimed another National League scalp with a 4-2 home win over Bournemouth, Chichester, from the South League premier division, went down 2-2 at home to Lewes, the new leaders of the National League first division, for whom Alistair Boyse scored four goals. Southgate struggled at home to beat Bromley 1-0, thanks to a late goal by Davies, while Teddington claimed a 4-2 victory at Surbiton.

Heavy frost caused the postponement of four matches at Bowdon, Cannock, Hounslow and Sheffield — and also hampered play in the National League, with two first division matches, those at Doncaster and Loughborough, both abandoned after play had started.

Cox claims Sutton cup scalp

BY CATHY HARRIS

TWO early goals by Donna Cox inspired Woking to a 4-3 win against Sutton Coldfield and sent the women's National League premier division team out of the EHA Cup at the fourth-round stage.

At the bottom of the table and without Jane Sixsmith, the international striker, who is on holiday, Sutton's hopes of rescuing something from their wretched season were crushed by the team boasting the only 100 per cent league record and flying high at the head of the second division.

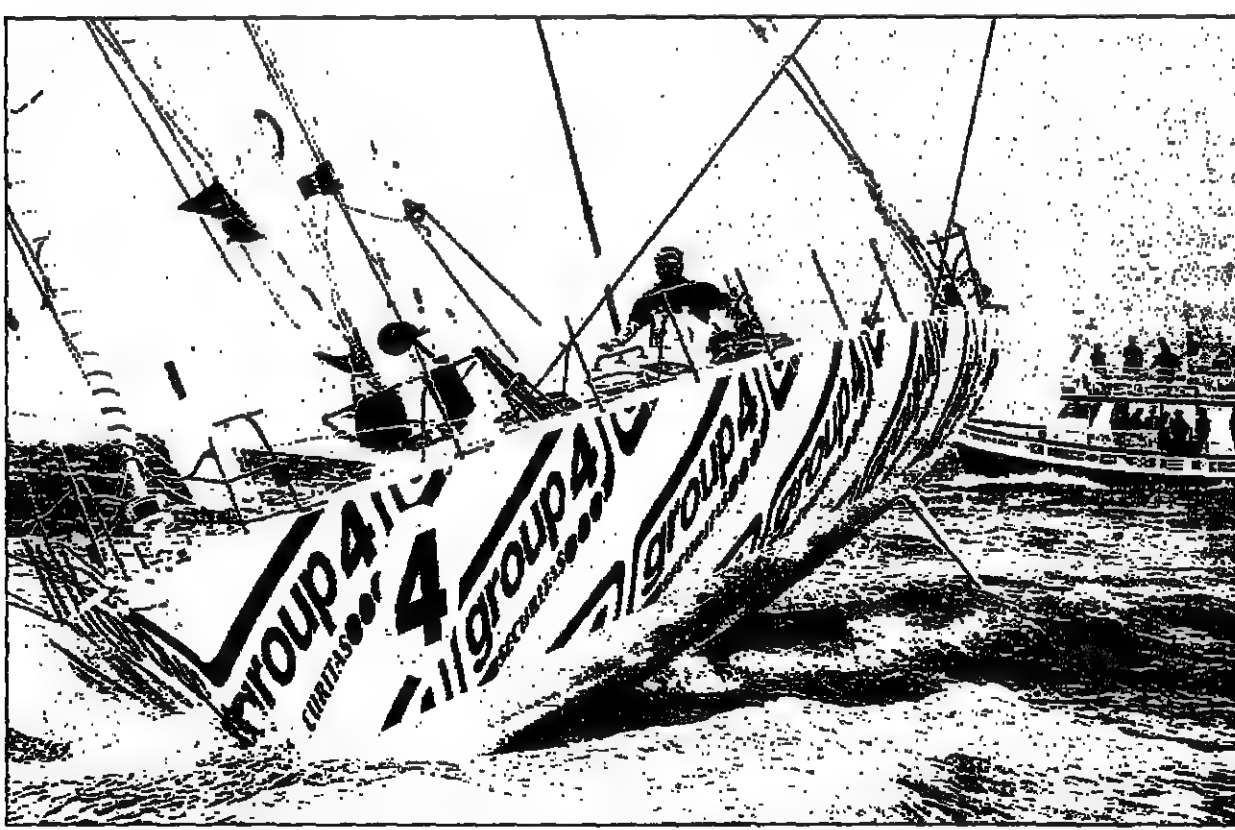
"It was really hard work," Ian Jennings, the Woking coach, said, "but at least our players can see what's required of them in the top flight. Sutton looked sharp and the pace of the game was quick, but the decisive factor was our superior teamwork."

Cox put Woking 2-0 ahead after 11 minutes before Sutton replied through Natalie Hannah, the captain, and Nicky Hickton, who equalised seven minutes before the interval. Joanne Murphy restored the home team's advantage on the stroke of half-time from a penalty corner.

Kate Thomas, the Wales international, missed a great chance to level the scores for Sutton early in the second half when she squandered a penalty stroke. The visitors paid heavily for that miss in the 52nd minute, when Kath James nudged home the rebound to finish off a sweeping counter-attack, although Helen Grant did grab a late consolation goal for the visitors.

On a day when six fixtures were postponed because of frost, including the match between Clifton, the holders, and Dulwich, there were no problems for Ipswich, the premier division leaders, who beat Harlestone Magpies 3-0.

SAILING: BRITONS STAY AHEAD AS BATTLE IS JOINED IN SINGLE-HANDED FLEET



Mike Golding, in Team Group 4, enjoys the breeze as he works on improving his slim advantage in Class 1

Garside stretches out all alone

BY EDWARD GORMAN,
SAILING CORRESPONDENT

MIKE GARSIDE, in the Class 2 Open 50, *Magellan Alpha*, was enjoying the rare pleasure of being overall leader yesterday as the Around Alone fleet began its second day at sea on the 7,000-mile leg two from Cape Town to Auckland. Of the 15 skippers still in the race, two did not make the re-start, while two others have had to return to South Africa for repairs.

Garside, of Great Britain, is determined to beat J-P Mouline, of France, his Class 2 rival, on this leg and has managed to open a useful 42-mile lead on him after 24 hours at sea.

However, the Briton has not gone as hard south as the Frenchman, in *Cray Valley*, and yesterday Mouline was south and west of him, a position that Garside seemed to have wanted to be in himself when discussing the leg prior to the start. The danger is that Mouline may pick up stronger westerlies before Garside and overhaul him.

In Class 1, Isabelle Autissier, of France, in *PRB*, who started the leg with an

elapsed time deficit of just 2½ hours on Mike Golding, in *Team Group 4*, the race leader, had a slim advantage over a trio of chasing 60s, led by Marc Thiercelin, in *Somewhere*, and closely followed by Golding and Giovanni Soldini, in *FILA*.

Of the three, Golding was holding the most southerly course and hoping to be in the best position to be the first to pick up the strong west/southwest winds that are forecast for today.

The start on Saturday saw Soldini leading off the line under grey skies in westerly winds of ten to 15 knots under Table Mountain. The Italian is desperate to do well on this leg, but he is also many people's bet to get himself into trouble by pushing too hard in the Southern Ocean.

The two who did not make the start were Fedor Konioukhov, in *Modern University for the Humanities*, the Russian Class 1 also-ran, who is still struggling with serious keelbolt problems, and Robin Davie, the South Carolina-based Cornishman, whose 50 is getting a new rudder. Both sailors are hoping to join the race today.

Two who started and came back were Minoru Saito, the Japanese eccentric, who is already in Cape Town tackling electrical problems on his worn-out 50, *Skatendohji II*, and George Stricker, 63, of the United States, whose uncompetitive Class 2 boat, *Rapscallion III*, has a broken boom. Stricker may not get back until today as he fights 30-knot headwinds.

□ The organisers of The Race — the non-stop round-the-world race for unlimited boats, which starts in two years — have announced that France Telecom is joining the project as a principal partner alongside Disneyland Paris and Volvo. There are 16 declared challengers, about a third of whom can be expected to make the start. Registered British entries are Pete Goss, Lawrie Smith, Tracy Edwards and Tony Bullimore.

UCB bids to bring racial balance

FROM THIRAS PETROPOULOS
IN DURBAN

THE United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCB) has formed a committee above that of the selectors to oversee the racial balance of the national side and introduced a provincial quota of black players into domestic cricket.

The move is a reaction to criticism aimed at the UCB of the all-white South Africa side that was fielded in the opening Test match against West Indies in Johannesburg. The UCB, however, did stop short of insisting on the mandatory inclusion of "players of colour" in the national side, a demand made by, among others, Steve Tshwene, the Minister of Sport.

If, as was the case in the first Test, the selectors are unable to pick black players because of form, injury or illness, their selection will be referred to the new committee, who will have the power to direct the selection of the squad. Where the outcome of the series has already been determined, the selectors will also be pressed to include black players in the side.

White said: "The committee shall be entitled to direct selectors to include players of colour." He added, however, that "standards of excellence in the national team should not be prejudiced nor compromised".

The South Africa squad for the second Test, which starts in Port Elizabeth on Thursday, in part reflects the policy, with the retention of Paul Adams and the reintroduction of Herschelle Gibbs, Adams, who was omitted from the final XI for the first Test, may again be overlooked, but Gibbs is sure to replace Adam Bacher, the opening batsman.

It is to domestic cricket that the UCB's initiative in the development programme will have the greatest impact. From next season, all nine first-class provincial teams will be instructed to include black players. Where those selections would severely weaken the side, provinces will draw from a UCB pool of players intended to spread talent around the country.

The debate has consumed South Africa, with many voices arguing against a move away from merit selection. Kepler Wessels, the former South Africa captain, said the country could "be facing a second emigration of cricketers".

SOUTH AFRICA SQUAD for West Indies at Port Elizabeth: W J Germ (captain), P B Pollock, G Kirsten, H H Gibbs, J H Kallis, D Cullen, J W Pretorius, M V Boucher, P Serrano, A A Conrad, P R Adams, P Tshwene.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Morley hits back for first win of season

■ **CYCLING:** Tim Morley, the Great Britain junior cyclo-cross champion but now, at 18, riding as a senior, won the South of England title at Hillingdon yesterday. However, he had to work hard for his victory, which was his first of the season.

As he changed machines on the opening lap of the 24-kilometre race, Morley fell on the slippery surface and badly cut his chin. He waved aside any suggestion of retirement before rejoining the race. His persistence paid off when he made contact with the leading pack at the halfway mark and took the lead and, although he was pursued by a small group of riders, he was never caught. Morley won by 45sec from Darren Barclay, with Richard Rumbelow in third.

Gillett earns reward

■ **BOWLS:** Les Gillett, right, who qualified for the national championships in all four events last summer and went on to break a record by playing in 21 out of a possible 24 sessions at Worthing, was the first recipient of *The Times*/Taylor Bowls Bowler of the Year award on Saturday. Gillett, the 1997 International Open champion, from Banbury, won the fours at Worthing, but lost 21-20 in the final of the singles.



Arsenal still on top

■ **FOOTBALL:** Arsenal, the women's Premier League leaders, maintained their position despite letting slip a two-goal lead against Croydon, who lie in third place in an enthralling 2-2 draw at The Arena, ground yesterday. Rachel Yankey, the minute before Justine Lorton extended Arsenal's lead with a 25-yard shot 39 minutes later. Second-half substitutions by Croydon changed the game, with Kerry Davies, the former England international, converting from the penalty spot in the 66th minute and Gemma Hunt, making her debut from the substitutes' bench, bringing the scores level ten minutes later.

Scotland slip up

■ **CURLING:** The Scotland men's team of David Smith got their European championship challenge off to a good start against England in Switzerland this weekend, only to suffer a second round defeat against Norway. Smith's team allowed Norway to level with their last stone and Tomrod Andreassen stole another for the victory. England beat France 9-2 in the championship alive. Rhona Martin's Scottish women's side, opened with a 7-6 victory over Norway.

Nervous South Africa fluff lines for the cameras

Television is no longer a neutral presence in sport, no longer an impassive, observing, I-am-a-camera phenomenon of the sideline. Television must now be considered an integral part of the flux of sporting history. The earth-shaking rugby union international on Saturday made clear in two distinct and important ways. Without television, this would have been a very different occasion — but thinking of modern sport without television is about as useful as thinking of life on earth without the sun.

ITV began their neatly assembled highlights of the England v South Africa match with a montage of soundbites. This was, at the same time, a tedious exercise in sporting cliché-manship and a few moments that laid bare the soul of the coming match.

All top-class international athletes are actors these days, seeking — and many of them deliberately trained — to play a certain part when the cameras turn upon them. Most of them choose the same part, the tough, no-nonsense, feet-on-the-ground, all-round good team man who does not have a single negative thought in his head. You may, if you wish, subtract the word "negative" from the previous sentence.

Thus the ITV montage showed the South Africa players' response to the coming match, which, if they won it, would make them the most successful team in rugby union history, with 18 consecutive victories. There is not a single observer of international sport who could not have scripted the South African dialogue. "Face after face after face: 'We're not really thinking about the record. Our thoughts are concentrated on one thing and that is beating England.'"

It is not true that sporting people invariably say the exact opposite of what is in their minds, but all the same, if you wish to understand an athlete's mental state, it is a good idea to try adding or subtracting "not" from any statement offered in a soundbite context. In short, it was obvious that the South Africa players were

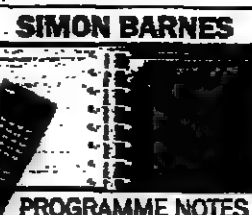
television, no rugby union person would have watched a rugby league match. Now, all the different oval-ball codes in the world are available to everyone at the twitch of a zipper. The result has been a great cross-fertilisation.

The England try was pure rugby league, as the commentary team was quick to point out. Mike Catt, the Henri le Conte of world rugby, made one of his prettiest Henri-type moves. The lofted, lateral kick making ten yards forward and 40 sideways was pure Bobby Goulding, Goulding being the St Helens playmaker-scrum half. Where did Catt, or Clive Woodward, the England coach, get the idea from? Certainly not from toiling around the M62

every weekend. No, they watched Goulding strutting his stuff on telly and thought: "That'll do us." They worked it up on the training ground and it came off perfectly.

It has become another convention of sporting television that only former sportsmen are qualified to express an opinion. More often than not, they fall back on the soundbite clichés learnt in their youth: he will have to put that myth out of his mind, and all that. We want to know what is really happening, without having to add and subtract the noise.

Most sportsmen can read their own game, but very few are willing to do so in a fashion that illuminates the match for the viewers. ITV made a



PROGRAMME NOTES

Simon Barnes

Before the age of sporting

'One of our chaps knocks the ball into touch and — oh thank God, we're safe'

Top-hole drama to sort men from the mice

My life has never flashed before my eyes — and, when I think of some of the lamentable haircuts I've had, it's a blessing. However, this is not to say that this near-death phenomenon does not exist, nor that the personal history of Clive Woodward, the England rugby union coach, did not genuinely revisit him (as he claimed) during South Africa's last-gasp counter-attack at Twickenham on Saturday afternoon.

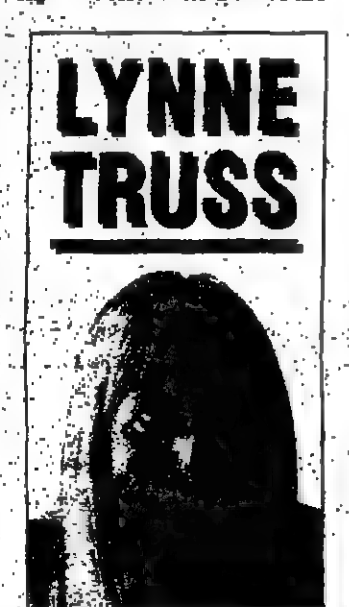
But how distracting it must have been, when you consider the occasion, to find yourself, at this important moment, back in the infant school singing *All Things Bright and Beautiful* in a beam of sunlight. If ever there were a sporting moment demanding full mental and emotional attendance, this was it.

We were 13-7 up, at the time. Six points clear. Rightly winning. Rightly rather glorious, too. Injury time had already reached its agonising 23rd (or possibly 50th) minute. The England forwards had been so staunch and heroic all afternoon that, though a final whistle was devoutly wished, one's heart still split with pride to see those broad, muddy shorts raised once more heavenwards in a scrum a few yards from the South Africa line. *Heave, shove, push.* Excellent play, chap! We can smell the testosterone from here, truly. *Heave, shove, push.* Lovely. Of course, rugby always was my game, deep down. *Heave, shove — hang on, what's going on?*

All of a sudden, the Springboks are streaming upfield towards the possibility of a win. After all this time, the greens have escaped! There is every chance that we aren't going to prevent them beating us and becoming the first national team in history to win 18 matches in a row! "Eek!" I squeal, standing up and pointing. "Eek, eek!" Something mousey has happened: it is most peculiar. England run back, tackling furiously, as the ball rockets the wrong way up the field. An ignorance of the rules at this point piles confusion on trem-

zy. What if...? How about...? Help, help! One of our chaps (Dan Luger) knocks the ball into touch and — oh, thank God, we're safe.

Well, the truth about the international at Twickenham on Saturday was that it was nearly all like that. Top-hole drama sufficient even to bring out one's inner mouse. Having never seen the Springboks before (or, indeed, been aware of their record-equaling 17 wins in succession), I can say with confidence that we are a



LYNNE TRUSS

match for you any time, matey: whenever you fancy it, the pleasure's ours. The confidence and attack of the England team on Saturday were simply inspiring. I walked away from Twickenham with the unprecedented, rather weepy sensation of having just acquired a load of big brothers — name with middle names like "Marcupb", "Clayton" and "Bruno Nero" — who would never, ever let me come to harm.

Of course, I saw roughly the same England team play Italy a couple of weeks ago and, in terms of warm, secure feelings afterwards, the game in Huddersfield was rather different — it was more

like finding that your house was still standing after a hurricane, but that the front door didn't shut any more and the windows were all broken. Since then, I have been given to understand that the England team has suffered recently from a few basic problems — the irregular presence of Lawrence Dallaglio, the captain, being one; the questionable inclusion in the team of Mike Catt at stand-off (whatever that means) another. Under the 14 months of Woodward's management, England's record was five wins, two draws and eight defeats. And so on.

Well, Dallaglio not only turned up on Saturday, but displayed abundant leadership qualities. Meanwhile, Catt — well, what a godsend to the undecided pundit Catt is. You have to change your mind about him every 45 seconds. One minute, he is imperilling the team by kicking for touch and missing; the next, he is breaking stride to provide a high lateral kick to left-field, which elegantly unlocks the game and gives Jeremy Guscott the chance to snatch and run for the sole England try.

Over the heads of four defenders flies the ball. Breathtakingly, it goes up, stops for a bit and then drops down again. Straight into the arms of Luger, who (charged by Terblanche) tips it to Jeremy, who happens to be running past unimpeded. This manoeuvre looks less like sport than a well-planned crime. It's the equivalent of switching getaway cars on waste ground, or ingeniously swapping flight bags so that the cops track a chap innocently carrying two packets of Fairy Soap.

The other attractive thing about this high point at 13 minutes was that Catt's kick resembled a soccer pass — the ball in possession briefly became a moving target, which in general happens too infrequently in rugby for someone accustomed to the other game. In fact, highly unaccustomed to the off-balance pile-on-boys of rugby, I'm always momentarily aggrieved by



The England celebrations begin as Paddy O'Brien, the referee, signals a momentous victory against the Springboks at Twickenham

the decision of a rugby player to force onwards into a wall of opposing flesh with the ball tucked under his ribs, when he could simply have given it to someone else. "Now look what you've done, you great oaf!" I always think, ungenerously, as he disappears under a heap of heavy bums in shorts. "Haven't you ever heard of the ruptured spleen?" And then I am driven to face the uncomfortable fact:

rugby is not a sport naturally attractive to conflict evaders. It was a privilege to be at Twickenham on Saturday. We in the crowd had a patch of difficulty singing *Jerusalem* in a losing race with both the music and the prompt on the scoreboard — and envisaging an afternoon of England likewise running to keep up was not a cheerful thing to do. But it all came right for the anthems,

which was nice — especially since one's countrymen did not shame England by booing the opponents' sing-song, as they invariably do at football.

I wonder if, in those closing moments, Woodward's life really did flash before him. Perhaps he was just saying it. If anything flashed in front of me, it was the execrable season of goalless draws I'd luckily experienced so far — hence

the Mrs Mouse impersonation, perhaps — but it was a grand victory and if the England football team could ever play with such resolve, I'd change my name to Minnie at a stroke. One wonders whether Glenn Hoddle was watching. How tragic it would have been for him to see, after all, an England team winning through sheer, astonishing self-belief, but tragically at the wrong game.

SPORTS LETTERS

Two-division cricket error

From Mr Michael Taylerson

Sir, In the vote for a two-division county championship, the ECB seems about to repeat the mistakes made by the rugby union authorities, with predictably dire consequences for the character and success of the sport.

Tim Lamb voices the usual specious argument that two divisions are necessary in order to improve the success of the England team. I fail to see how second-division cricket played in front of poor crowds or first-division cricket deprived for much of the season of England-contracted players will lead to an improvement in standards. What the ECB might more profitably do is to raise funds to provide cricket facilities and professional coaching in inner-city areas and comprehensive schools, so that cricket draws on a wider base of sporting talent than at present.

A two-division championship will change the game of cricket in this country irrevocably. As other sports have found, once promotion and relegation are introduced, the desperation to retain or improve one's status becomes the *sine qua non* of the sport. This inevitably leads to a decline in sportsmanship and

Anger over salmon fishing bylaws

From Mr Ian Cook

Sir, Brian Clarke's article on the debacle of the Environment Agency's proposed new bylaw for salmon fishing (article, November 23) is to be applauded on being both accurate and common sense.

In the South West of England, salmon anglers have been at the forefront, with voluntary conservation measures and river improvement schemes and therefore bitterly resent mandatory and harmful laws.

The existing application for bylaws reminds one of Jonathan Swift's maxim: "Laws are like

cobwebs, which may catch small flies, but wasps and hornets break through." The Irish drift net salmon sea fishery took a recorded 199,000 salmon last year, whereas salmon anglers by rod and line landed just about one tenth of that number, of which a quarter were released.

Yours faithfully,
IAN COOK,
Hon Secretary, The River Exe & Tributaries Association,
Weircliffe House, St Andrews Road,
Exwick, Exeter, Devon EX4 2AF.

Time to scrap rugby throw-in

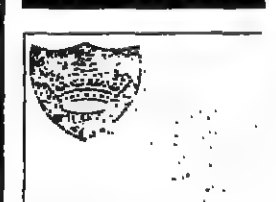
From Mr Patrick White

Sir, One can only agree with Michael Lynagh's request (November 30) for referees not to whistle for a lineout throw that is marginally crooked. As he says: "The team throwing it in, unless they are a bunch of midgets, are going to win the ball." In the one-sided Scotland v Portugal match recently, neither side lost a lineout on its own throw.

Since the outcome of a line-out is mostly known in advance, why not scrap it and present the ball to the team who would have thrown in, say five yards in from the point where it crossed the touchline. This would cut out the time wasted forming up the line and the conference between the hooker and other forwards about whom to throw to. It would spare us the sight of an already abnormally tall man being lifted by his fellow pack members. Last, it would obviate the need for every team to find and select said abnormally tall players. Redundant lock forwards could always take up basketball.

Yours sincerely,
PATRICK WHITE,
65 Crappenhall Road,
Stockton Heath,
Warrington WA4 2AR.
pat@white.demon.co.uk

This week in THE TIMES



- **Tomorrow**
After the heady heights of England v South Africa, Twickenham stages rugby's traditional student occasion. David Hands assesses prospects for the University match
- **Wednesday**
Bayern Munich stand between Manchester United and Champions' League progress. Oliver Holt sets the scene
- **Thursday**
After being on the receiving end in the first two Tests, England's cricketers aim to reclaim lost ground in the Ashes series. Alan Lee reports from Adelaide
- **Saturday**
The Premiership match-by-match, Danny Baker, Robert Elms, Oliver Holt and Alyson Rudd

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Scotland revel in familiar storyline

BY ALASDAIR REID

The affair brought a sour end to a day in which Scotland had demonstrated burgeoning self-belief. Kenny Logan, the Wasps winger, revelled in an occasion that allowed him to collect five tries. Had caps been awarded, his achievement would have matched the Scottish record set by George Lindsay against Wales 111 years ago.

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Gibbs, the scorer of the final Swansea try, bursts through the Cardiff defence to embark on another rampaging run

Cardiff pay for their sins

By GERALD DAVIES

The match had begun in a riot of aggression that hardly merited the epithet "friendly" as applied to these non-League fixtures. Chasing the ball seemed secondary to challenging a player to a bout of wrestling on the floor. There was hardly any movement worthy

Cardiff seemed unlikely to chance their arm or respond so quick-wittedly as the way in which the home team created the first try. Burke and Davies had exchanged a penalty each when the stalemate was broken in the eighteenth minute. Dean Thomas broke through a cluster of Cardiff forwards to break clear from deep within his own half. Weatherley was

At this stage, it was hard to see a way back for Cardiff even if they had had the full complement of players after the interval — yet they began well. Tries by Morgan and Baugh and a conversion by

Chaves (an-bir, 63-73), D Thomas, J Jones
 GARDIFF: J Thomas, C Morgan, L Davies
 G Thomas (rep M White, 70), S Hill, R Burke, R Jones, A Lewis (capt), J Humphreys, S John (rep: L Muscoe, 89), S Williams, J Tait (rep: D Jones, 40), C Williams, D Bough (an-bir, 23-33), G Muscoe (an-bir, 32-40)
 Referee: F Howard (RFU).

BY DAVID HANDS
NINTY CORRESPONDENT

shagen, Free State, 48). D. Vokerman (Museum Provincie), R. Reid (Gauteng L. one), C. le Roux (Northern Transvaal), S. Somersby (Natal).
R. Reid, P. de Luca (Argentina).

By BARRY TROWBRIDGE

SCORES: Dudley Kingsland: Try: 6
Connett (29min). Penalty goals: J Forster 2
(50, 56).

THE TIMES

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CHANGING TIMES

ICE HOCKEY

Virta puts Panthers on path to cup victory

Nottingham Panthers 2
Ayr Scottish Eagles 1

By NORMAN DE MESQUITA

NOTTINGHAM Panthers survived a late spell of intense pressure to win the Benson and Hedges Cup for the third time in five years on Saturday, when they beat Ayr Scottish Eagles, the defending champions, in front of a near-capacity crowd at the Sheffield Arena.



Winners Jamie Leach, the Panthers captain, celebrates

lead, the shots on goal analysis shows which of the two goalkeepers was the better. Nottingham outshot Ayr 17-6 in the first 20 minutes and 35-24 on the night.

Ironically, Vincent Riendeau, the Ayr goalkeeper, probably had his best game of the season, only to finish on the losing side. His performance was matched at the other end by Trevor Robbins, who was his usual reliable and, at times, spectacular self.

Mike Blaisdell, the Nottingham coach, took something of a gamble by including two newcomers in his team, Jason Weaver and Darcy Loewen, who arrived in England only on Thursday and Friday mornings respectively.

Weaver contributed to the build-up to the second goal and might have had an even more productive debut but for the brilliance of Riendeau. Twice, Weaver found himself

on a breakaway with not a defender in sight, only to be denied by the goalkeeper. Riendeau reserved his best save of the evening for another Weaver effort, midway through the final period.

Since his arrival, Weaver has divided his time between sleeping in his hotel room and practicing. There was then the relatively small matter of making his debut for his new team in a cup final. "I did not know what I was getting myself into," he admitted.

James Leach, the Nottingham captain, who previously played for Sheffield Steelers, was especially pleased to lift the trophy on his former home rink. "It was certainly nice to come back to Sheffield and win a cup," he said.

Blaisdell was quick to pay tribute to Ayr's performance. "They are a well-coached team and they do not panic," he said. "Having worked hard to get here, we wanted to make it as tough as possible for them."

As for the introduction of the two newcomers in such an important game, Blaisdell felt that it was not that much of a gamble. "There is nothing very complicated about our system. Just shoot the puck and hit the bodies," he said.

Loewen certainly did the latter and there can be no doubt that he will quickly become a firm favourite with the Nottingham fans. His career record with Buffalo and Ottawa in the National Hockey League indicates quite clearly what type of player he is. In 135 games, he scored four goals but spent 211 minutes in the penalty box.

His was one of the Nottingham penalties that gave Ayr six man-advantage opportunities, none of which proved to be productive. The Nottingham defence kept the Ayr forwards on the perimeter, giving them minimum opportunities to test Robbins, who was also helped by the number of shots that his defencemen managed to block.

The Panthers had only three power-plays, but the winning goal came on the last of them, with Weaver and Paul Adey setting up Virta, who blasted an unstoppable shot from 60 feet past Riendeau.

Jim Lynch, the Ayr coach, was not prepared to use his side's trip last Tuesday to Mannheim for a European League fixture as an excuse. "We are not going to whine about it," he said. "Anyway, tired is not a word you use in a final."



Men in black: three undertakers appeared, as if from nowhere, to provide one of the year's most unusual diversions. Photograph: Chris Yates

Well, there goes another one. I don't know how or where, but that's the way it has been ever since I began. Memorable images of this fish and that place, glowing recollections of days out with friends; but, in the main, the seasons roll by in a green-tinted haze lit by reflections from water.

The highlights? The fish are easily disposed of more easily disposed of than banked. Nothing really big, but plenty of interest in addition to the trout. The coarse fish? Well, there was the barbel I took when the marrow was freezing inside my bones: a small fish but unforgettable, glistening like beaten gold against the white frost of the bank.

And the chub, I guess. I saw the whole shoal lying where I had seen them the season before. I approached on my hands and knees, targeted the fish I wanted and flicked it the small, dry fly. The fish took interest at once and, with a caution that would have educated an educated trout, drifted tail-first downstream, its nose inches from the hook. Then the take, right under my feet and a mouth so huge I could have got vertigo looking into it. Oh, the lunge for freedom and the break.

The trip to Madeira has to go on record — the day out for marlin, trolling deep water. The boat lifting and sliding in the heavy swell. The long hours passing and then the snatch at the outrigger and the rod going down. The surge of adrenalin. The shout from the skipper — then the piece of driftwood hurtling towards us, impaled on a lure that flashed in the sun. The disappointment that rolled over me like a wave.

Undertaking to do it all again in the coming year

Brian Clarke looks back on some of his best and worst angling memories of 1998

The cottage in Ireland. Turf slumbering in its sea of white ashes. The dissolving silence. The glow of a long day on the loch on my face and the great pike on the wall swimming through reflections in my glass.

The late rod, of course: one of the most precious things I have possessed. It was the birthday rod, the 6ft 9in Constable that I chose as my present 20 years ago. I live the moment, still — hear it still, feel it still. The slow, fibrous splintering as the cane gave way when my backcast snagged a fence and failed to come forward. The terrible, loose hinging of the top-piece. The numbness. The incomprehension.

As for the rest, it was the people. It usually is. Quickest piece of wit? On the Kennet in July with my old friend, Ron. A tumble of water over a two-foot drop and a fish glimpsed suddenly against white water. "A fish. Look. Just there!" Ron looked and nodded. Then the other fish moving in from behind. I pointed at that and Ron nodded

again. We watched while the hen fish cruised the pool with the big cock close behind, shadowing her as if he was towed by strings. "Good heavens. They're starting to mate already!" Another nod from Ron, this time towards the drop and the cascading water. "What do you expect, Viagra Falls?"

Most bizarre incident? No doubt about that. With two other friends deep in the country on a crisp, March day. A rustle of leaves and a snapping of twigs. We stopped chatting on the bridge and turned. Three dark figures advancing towards us, side-by-side, and smiling. Black shoes. Black trousers. Black coats. Black ties. Black — yes, black capes.

"Blimey!" Jeff said. "Undertakers!" Chris said. "One apiece!" I gasped. And that is what they were, far away from anywhere, walking by the river: taking a break from a service in a chapel that we hadn't noticed up the road. I could never have invented the scene. The Grayling Gala. Ah, yes, the

Grayling Gala. Lots of insights into human nature, there. Eric, who likes to do things in style, hired a length of the River Test and carriers last month for an end-of-season party. We travelled from far and wide, fished until lunchtime, then gathered by the cars for lunch and a post-vow.

I don't know what it is about some people. All I did was mention the marlin. All right, it isn't every day that a marlin is hooked on the Test, but this is fishing and these things happen — especially when you're on your own. I had no sooner begun to describe the monster's leaps from main river into a carrier and back again and they started. Niggling and muttering. Casting doubts. Asking about what one of them called "witnesses".

Frankly, it descended into farce. One chap claimed he'd hooked a swordfish that had charged upstream so fast it buried its nose into the bank on a bend. Had to be pulled out by tractors, he said. Someone else said he'd hooked a grayling so big it got jammed broadside when it tried to turn around and dash downstream. Claimed he'd saved time coming to lunch by crossing the river on its back.

Of course, I ignored them. It was obvious they were just making it up. That's anglers the world over. I've found. It's certainly par for my friends. As it happens, it's par for every fishing party I've ever been to — and, in the round, every season I've ever fished. Lovely.

□ Brian Clarke's column appears on the first Monday of every month.

SQUASH

Nicol is unable to cut off Power

FROM COLIN MCQUILLAN
IN DOHA, QATAR

JONATHAN POWER, of Canada, the world No 3, defeated the Peter Nicol, the No 1 seed, from Scotland, 15-17, 15-9, 15-10 in the 72-minute final of the Mahindra World Open championship on Saturday, becoming the first North American to take a world title in the international softball game.

With softball squash replacing the established American hardball game throughout his continent, Power, 24, may be about to lead — on his side of the Atlantic Ocean — the sort of squash boom that Jonah Barrington ignited in Europe during the Seventies.

Nicol admitted that the World Open had proved to be one tournament too far in a pressurised year that has continued non-stop since he lost a national championship quarter-final to Mark Chaloner on the same January day that he was first declared world No 1.

Hopes of creating a unique record — taking the world No 1 ranking, the British Open, a gold at the Commonwealth Games and this world title in a single year — were reduced for the 25-year-old left-hander when the World Open was moved from Bombay to Doha.

"I won the Mahindra International three years running in Bombay," Nicol said. "It is a warm court there, which allows for an easy, floating sort of game, my sort of game. This court is unrelenting and such hard work. It suits Jonathan's erratic style of play perfectly."

Power acknowledged that the court conditions were a factor in his win. "This is my court. This is where I defeated Jansher Khan and Peter Nicol last year. The unresponsive front wall frustrates Peter's tactic of taking the early ball and forces him to take an extra step into the front court. For me, it means my short shots are more effective and I can exploit his advanced position with accurate driving."

With leads of 6-1 and 12-9 in a 27-minute opening game, Power might even have won in straight games, but Nicol recovered to lead 14-12 before a clinging backhand drive and a towering forehand cross-court smash into the top left nick brought the Canadian to 14-14. Nicol then dredged up three typical fighting rallies to take the tie-break.

However, the Scot never hit his stride and could not find a proper length or width with which to command the court. In contrast, the new world champion, who found the nick only half-a-dozen times, struck wrong-footing shots all over the court from Nicol's loose play.

NETBALL

Derbyshire delighted with Astle

By CATHY HARRIS

A CLINICAL second-half display of shooting by Alex Astle, a substitute, helped Derbyshire follow their opening triumph over Essex Metropolitan, the holders, with a comfortable 78-23 victory over Surrey in the English Counties League.

After Lisa Toplis and Julie Malinski shared the goals to give Derbyshire a 35-21 lead at half-time, Astle was introduced by Rosie Port, the coach, and scored with 27 from 29 attempts.

However, Bedfordshire, who have played one more game, still head the table, despite making heavy work of their win against Birmingham. Louise Sanchez, the goal attack, dominated for the home side, while, at the other end, Michelle Logan, the goalkeeper, also played a crucial role.

Fiona Murtagh, the former England captain, who is recovering from knee surgery, was the only notable absentee for Essex Metropolitan, who were swept to a convincing victory over East Essex. The victory was due to an excellent defence and a much-improved performance by Lorraine Law, the England international, who scored 40 times.

Middlesex had Melanie Buck and Lucia Sdao to thank for their win over Kent, which extended their unbeaten run. Buck scored 53 goals and received excellent support from Sdao.

Results, page 42

Whitgift discover a golden touché



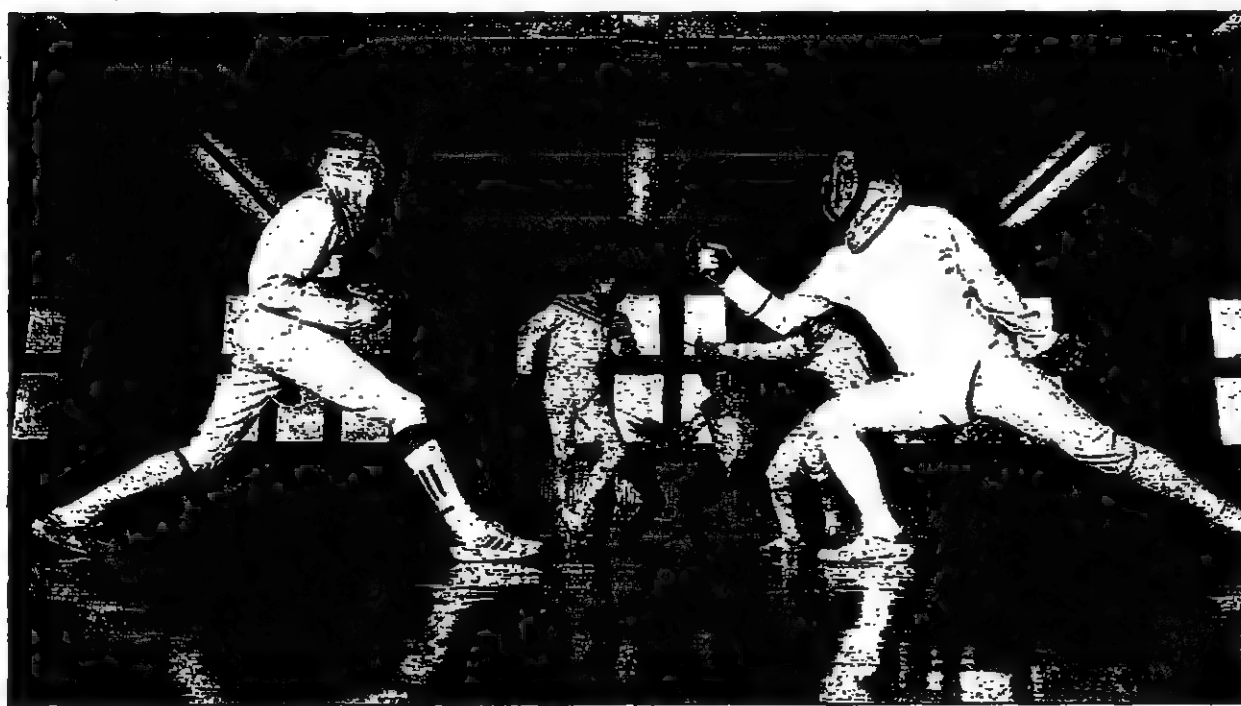
By JOHN GOODBODY

IT IS the excitement of fencing that initially attracts many youngsters to try the sport. Marino Jansahm, of Whitgift School in Croydon, is typical. "I'd seen the swash-buckling films on television with Errol Flynn. It appealed to me because it was such an unusual activity," he said. However, Marino quickly found that modern fencing is not a matter of slashes and parries. "You also had to be more mentally alert than I had expected."

Last year, he won the British under-17 sabre title and is now one of a cluster of outstanding fencers at the independent boys' day school.

Two old boys, Nick Fletcher and Gregory Allen, are at present members of the Great Britain team and the school has won the national under-17 team title in sabre for the past two years. A total of ten British youth champions have been pupils at the school in the past 14 years. Indeed, fencing is so popular at Whitgift that they entered 75 competitors, from a senior school of 800, for the public schools' championships last Easter.

Keith Smith, the master-in-charge and also a referee at the past two Olympic Games,



Whitgift's training regimes have played a big part in building what has become an oasis of fencing talent

said: "Boys have an image of what fencing is like, but it is more controlled than they usually think it would be. It is not seen as such an anachronism as some people would think."

Fencing often attracts boys who are not good at all sports and, usually, they are pretty bright academically. There is no compulsion to fence here and although it is an individual sport, there is a team element when you are competing in matches against other schools.

Apart from members of the staff who fence, Whitgift also have two leading coaches in Peter Barrett, in foil and epee, and Mike Matthews for sabre. Traditionally, Britain is weak at sabre compared to the other

disciplines, which makes Whitgift's interest in it all the more welcome.

Marino, a Sri Lankan, who is taking three A-levels this summer, said: "Sabre demands more physical qualities than the other weapons. You need to use your feet a lot and always be just a couple of steps away from being able to strike your opponent."

"In epee, when you hit with the point of the weapon, you need tremendous accuracy because you want to strike your opponent on his wrist, which is the closest part of the body to you but which is so small."

Dudley Tredger, 17, twice the British under-20 epee champion, who finished sixteenth in an international un-

der-20 'A' grade tournament in Germany a week ago, has the tricky task, like many of the Whitgift team, of combining training and competition with studying for four A-levels.

He said: "For a couple of months, I am often away competing every weekend. You try to catch up academically, but it is a battle."

Dudley believes that the coaching is a prime reason for the school's success. There is also the example of the older boys. "When you are lower down the school, you look up to them and they pull you up to their standard," he said.

Smith said: "Usually, when boys start fencing, they are very enthusiastic, even when they realise that it is not like

fighting with garden sticks. The hardest thing is to maintain this enthusiasm because fencing does take a while to learn."

"But it is often peer pressure that makes them continue in the early stages and we break up the sessions with other activities, such as a bit of football."

Often the boys get hooked on the activity. School sessions take place twice a week for two hours. Smith said: "At 6pm, the boys are often asking whether they can do just a little bit more, while yours truly is a bit tired."

What is the attraction? Tredger thought for a moment before replying. "It is like a physical game of chess."

BASKETBALL

Mims voices his concern over first-aid facilities

By NICHOLAS HARLING

BILLY MIMS, the Leopards' coach, has criticised inadequate first-aid facilities after Eric Burks suffered an excruciating injury during his team's 86-80 Uni-ball trophy defeat by Newcastle Eagles on Saturday.

Mims was horrified not so much by the pain endured by Burks, the Leopards guard, after a tooth had shattered and embedded itself in his upper lip, but by the lack of a first-class medical team at the Tel-e-west Arena, where only the two stipulated physiotherapists were on hand to help.

There was no doctor and no St John Ambulance volunteers available to take the 26-year-old American to Newcastle General Hospital. The task was eventually performed by Dave Elderkin, the Leopards' general manager, but, by the time Burks had had 11 stitches inserted into his mouth, the Leopards' coach had long since departed for London. Fortunately for Burks, a supporter stayed behind to drive him home during the small hours.

"What if it had been really serious and he had landed on his head and been knocked unconscious?" Mims asked. "I don't want to criticise Newcastle, they didn't do anything wrong, but the system does need looking at. I've coached for nearly 20 years, but I didn't like to take the medical decisions that I took."

The mishap, which occurred in an accidental collision with Chris Fitt as Burks drove for the basket, came after only four minutes. Insult was added to Burks' injury, according to Mims, by what happened next. "Eric was lying there with blood all over the place. He had got hammered, but didn't even get the whistle."

To Mims's fury, the Eagles then went down court and benefited with a three-pointer from Scott Wilkie. "For a player who was player of the year last season and has been in the All-Star team twice, Eric has earned more respect than that," Mims said.

Since Burks cannot have the stitches removed until Thursday at the earliest, he will almost certainly miss the Budweiser League game on Wednesday between the clubs, but he should be raring to go by December 20 when the Leopards meet the Eagles yet again in the National Cup semi-final at the NEC.

In another Uni-ball Trophy tie acting as a Cup semi-final rehearsal, Sheffield Sharks overwhelmed Thames Valley Tigers 102-83 at Bracknell. In the only League game of the weekend, London Towers outclassed Worthing Bears 106-79, leaving Sean Locks, the Bears' new coach, still looking for his first win after nine games in charge.

Learning the ropes in land of the fjords

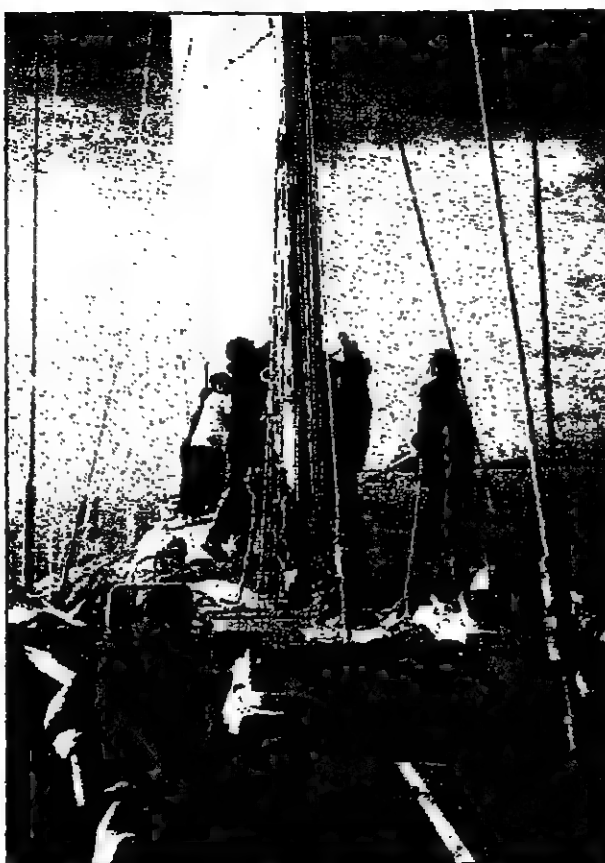
Ron Gribble enjoys a taste of sailing in the Arctic Circle

Water splashes against the deck, foam runs down the windows and vents. "Batten down the hatches," Mark Salter, our skipper, shouts. I pull on my sea boots and mop up the water sloshing about in the galley. We are sailing in the Arctic circle on board the £250,000 yacht *3Com*, a 67ft steel veteran of two round-the-world races and a survivor of some of the roughest storms in the South Atlantic.

However, this is not foul weather that we are experiencing. Up on deck, in bright sunlight, our cleaning squad is scrubbing the non-slip surfaces with brooms and hoses in the warmest September weather that this region of northern Norway, just below the North Pole, has enjoyed for more than 40 years.

Rather than the freezing temperatures that we had been expecting, our six days sailing the fjords, island-hopping and visiting remote fishing villages, turns into a fair-weather cruise with plenty of time to set the sails, learn the ropes, see the sights and get a windan. It is the inspiration of Sir Chay Blyth, the organiser of the BT Global Challenge, the toughest amateur round-the-world yacht race. In 1971, as a sergeant in the Parachute Regiment who could neither sail nor navigate, he decided that he wanted to sail around the world the wrong way. His solo navigation against the prevailing winds and currents convinced him that ordinary people are capable of extraordinary achievements.

I have joined the Bodo Arctic Challenge, organised by Challenge Adventure Sailing,



Heave-ho and up she rises as the crew hoist the mainsail

which offers less experienced sailors and novices like myself the chance to sail aboard ocean racers beside seasoned yachtsmen.

I clamber aboard at Bodo harbour with enough luggage and thermal gear for a polar expedition, only to find that Clair, a physiotherapist from Eastbourne, who has backpacked around India with the barest essentials, has brought just a couple of pairs of knickers and intends to wash and dry them overnight.

Beside our professional instructors, Mark, the red-bearded skipper from Fife, and Cameron, the first mate from Argyll, our 11-strong crew of amateurs consists of a mixed age group. There are two young couples; Bill, a Scotland Yard detective; Ian, a former car restorer, who delivers narrow boats around the canals of Great Britain; Irene, a retired

schoolteacher, and Cathryn, an insurance saleswoman, who, wanting mid-life adventure, has left her job and sold her house so that she can travel the world.

I share my berth with Sam, a weekend sailor from Cheltenham, who works for a housing trust, and Alan, from Hull, who has served aboard the sail training ship *Malcolm Miller*. We share our coffin-size cabin with boxes of potatoes, parsnips, onions, carrots and pasta and take it in turns to take the wheel, keep watch and cook.

Mark warns us of three things that can threaten life at sea — fire, gas explosions and falling overboard. "If you smell gas, speak up. If you fall overboard, don't attempt to swim. Adopt the fetal position and wait to be rescued. If you flap around, you will let cold water into your clothing



Fastening a rope round a winch requires careful handling, according to Salter, the bearded skipper. "A winch can snatch your fingers off."

SPORT FOR ALL

and get hypothermia." Mark shows us how to put on our life-jackets and safety harnesses, clipping them on to a safety line on deck. We are each kit-out with a smart £500 set of foul-weather gear.

Next morning, we take on water and diesel, hoist the 974sq ft of mainsail and set off for the Lofoten Islands, a dozen inhabited islands of granite and volcanic rock sculptured by the ice Age and set in Europe's most important fishing fields.

We follow the coast to Sort-jord, passing snow-topped mountains, and go ashore to

explore great plates of limestone cliff, covered with lush vegetation and sparkling with fool's gold and marble.

After staying overnight at Kjerringøy, we head for Trollfjord. I accept an invitation to go up the 80ft mast and the crew haul me to the top in a harness. The view is amazing: the deck below looks about the size of a matchbox. A white-tailed sea eagle cruises overhead and huge jellyfish bathe around the yacht.

Later, Andrew, a young ex-soldier, volunteers to go up the mast. He reaches the top just as we approach the narrow mouth of the fjord, only to be confronted by a giant triple-decker ferry bearing down on us, dwarfed by the towering cliffs on either side. Mark grabs his radio and makes contact with the ferry's bridge. A deep Norwegian voice crackles over the airwaves. We keep our distance and passengers peer down on us and wave as the ferry squeezes past. In the excitement, we forget that Andrew is still stuck up the mast and winch him down.

We tie up for the night at the

end of the fjord. The beach is covered in giant mussels. The cooks among us, who have brought curry paste and chilli powder in their luggage, sauté as they collect them in buckets. A party goes out in the dinghy to fish. Clair lands a big cod. Her partner, another Andrew, a keen angler, comes back empty-handed. We barbecue the fish for supper after mousie marinières.

Back on board, the skipper shows us the correct way to fasten a rope around a winch.

Take some thermal underwear. Polo-neck shirts, sweatshirts and a fleece are useful for keeping out the cold and dry quickly. Non-slip sea boots and waterproof sailing gloves are essential if the weather is bad. Take a sleeping bag, trainers, torch, seasickness pills, sun glasses and sunscreen

holding the rope at arm's length to avoid getting our fingers trapped if the tension of the sails snatches the rope from our grasp. "A winch can snatch your fingers off. Hold the rope with the fingers away from the winch. If you are going to lose a finger, it is better to lose a little finger than a thumb," Mark says, comfortably.

Next stop, Svolvær. Two hundred fishermen deliver their catch here during the high season to be dried and salted. They sell postcards of polar bears in the village shop, but we haven't seen any. I think I spot a whale, but the others are convinced it is a trick of the light on the waves.

I decide to give up shaving. With this fish diet, allowed only an occasional shower to conserve water and my shaggy look, I am beginning to look and smell like a walrus. The first mate introduces us to his fiddle-playing and his wide range of classical CDs. It seems fitting, as we ghost down silent fjords in the land of the midnight sun. We arrive at Henningsvær.

Norway's Venice, a tiny town built on wooden stilts encrusted with barnacles. The pub is empty. They are all-out fishing. This is Viking country, the Norsemen who sailed to England and pillaged, burnt and raped. Now we are the invaders, although with beer at almost £4 a pint, we feel that perhaps the Vikings are still at it.

We sail through the fishing fields and count 21 trawlers. That night, we tie up at Nusfjord, population 39. The local pub is glad to see us.

As we head for home, I find the seasickness pills at the bottom of my rucksack. Bill admits that he has been taking them daily. Ah well, I have the perfect excuse to go back to sea again. After all, it would be a pity to waste them.

Challenge Adventure Sailing, Trepan House, Menheniot, Liskeard, Cornwall, PL14 3PH. Call 01579 348387 for a brochure. Price for six to seven nights from May to September ranges from £520 to £595. Air fare is extra. The author travelled, courtesy of SAS (Scandinavian Airlines).

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House of Lords

Scots Law Report December 7 1998

House of Lords

Detention of psychopath

R (a Patient) v Secretary of State for Scotland
Before Lord Slynn of Hadley, Lord Lloyd of Berwick, Lord Hope of Craighead, Lord Clyde and Lord Hutton

[Speeches December 3]

On an application for discharge by a restricted patient, section 64(1)(a) of the Mental Health (Scotland) Act 1984 was to be construed by reference to the statutory criteria for hospital detention set out in section 17(1)(a) of that Act.

It followed that the sheriff was obliged to make an order for the discharge of an offender with a psychopathic disorder if his continuing in hospital was not likely to "alleviate or prevent a deterioration of his condition" within the meaning of section 17(1)(a)(i), notwithstanding that such criterion was not set out in section 64.

The House of Lords held, Lord Lloyd dissenting, but having unanimously found that the requirements of section 64(1) had not been met in the instant case, allowed an appeal by the Secretary of State for Scotland from the order of the Second Division of the Inner House (the Lord Justice-Clerk (Lord Clyde) and Lord McAlister (Lord McAlister) (1997 SLT 335) to refuse an application by R, a patient at the State Hospital, Craigmiles, for judicial review of a sheriff's refusal to grant his discharge under section 64.

R had been convicted of culpable homicide in 1967, when he was aged 17, and made subject to a detention order pursuant to powers which were now to be found in sections 58 and 59 of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995.

Section 58(1)(a) requires the court to be satisfied, before authorising detention, that the grounds set out in section 17(1) of the 1984 Act applied in relation to the offender.

"(a) he is suffering from a mental disorder which is appropriate for him to receive medical treatment in a hospital and (b) in the case where the mental disorder is a psychopathic disorder, it is a persistent one manifested only by abnormally aggressive or seriously irresponsible conduct, such treatment is likely to alleviate or prevent a deterioration of his condition ... and

"(c) it is necessary for the health or safety of that person or for the protection of other persons that he should receive such treatment."

Section 64(1) of the 1984 Act provides that the sheriff "shall

direct the absolute discharge of the patient if he is satisfied - (a) that the patient is not, at the time of the hearing of the appeal, suffering from mental disorder of a nature or degree which makes it appropriate for him to be liable to be detained in a hospital for medical treatment; or (b) that it is not necessary for the protection of other persons that he should receive such treatment; and (in either case) (c) that it is not appropriate for the patient to remain liable to be recalled to hospital for further treatment.

"(2) Where the sheriff is satisfied as to paragraph (a) or (b) but not (c) he shall direct the conditional discharge of the patient."

Mr M. G. Clarke, QC and Mr R. A. McCredie for the secretary of state; Mr G. C. Bell, QC and Mr S. G. Collins for R.

LORD HOPE said that had it not been for reports by two medical practitioners that R was suffering from mental deficiency, it seemed likely that he would have been charged with murder and, if found guilty, sentenced to life imprisonment.

The trial judge, having been satisfied that R was suffering from mental disorder of a nature which would warrant his admission to hospital and that he required treatment under conditions of special security, made orders for his detention in the State Hospital and for his discharge without limit of time.

The problem which had arisen was due to the fact that the diagnosis of the mental disorder from which R was now suffering was no longer the same as it was when the judge made the original order.

R was not suffering from mental deficiency, but that which section 17(1) described as "a persistent one manifested only by abnormally aggressive or seriously irresponsible conduct."

He had been described as having a psychopathic personality and section 17(1) of the [English] Mental Health Act 1983 defined the expression "psychopathic disorder" in those terms.

Terminology apart, however, the important point was that there was now a substantial body of medical opinion that this was a condition which was not susceptible of treatment in a hospital.

Section 17(1) gave effect to the policy that psychopaths should only be detained under compulsory powers in hospital where there was a good prospect that the treatment which they would receive there would be of benefit.

The first question was therefore whether the patient was suffering from a mental disorder of a nature or degree which made it appropriate for him to be liable to be detained in a hospital for medical treatment; or (b) that it is not necessary for the protection of other persons that he should receive such treatment; and (in either case) (c) that it is not appropriate for the patient to remain liable to be recalled to hospital for further treatment.

His Lordship agreed with the dissenting judgment of Lord Justice-Clerk (Lord Clyde) and Lord McAlister (Lord McAlister) (1997 SLT 335) that it could not be accepted that Parliament had intended that a tribunal, in Scotland, the sheriff, should, when reviewing a decision relating to the patient's discharge, apply only two of the three criteria laid down in the Act to justify the compulsory detention in a hospital of patients suffering from mental disorder.

As Lord MacLennan put it in the Second Division, the "treatability" test was incorporated in the "appropriateness" test. The medical practitioners had to ask himself first, what was the mental disorder from which the person was suffering.

The next question, if it was of a kind which had to pass the treatability test, was whether that test was satisfied.

Only then could it be determined whether the treatment which would have that effect made it appropriate for him to receive it in a hospital.

His Lordship concluded that on an appeal under section 64(1) the sheriff had to treat condition (a) in that subsection as having been satisfied if, where the mental disorder from which the patient suffered was a persistent one manifested only by abnormally aggressive or seriously irresponsible conduct, he was satisfied that medical treatment in a hospital was not likely to alleviate or prevent a deterioration of his condition.

There remained the question whether the patient was suffering from a mental disorder of a nature or degree which made it appropriate for him to be liable to be detained in a hospital for medical treatment; or (b) that it is not necessary for the protection of other persons that he should receive such treatment; and (in either case) (c) that it is not appropriate for the patient to remain liable to be recalled to hospital for further treatment.

Views differed among psychiatrists as to whether the kind of mental disorder from which R suffered was susceptible of medical treatment of any kind.

These differences of view had been amply demonstrated by the written reports which were before the sheriff in this case.

There had been general agreement that medical treatment was not likely to alleviate the condition, and R had not been receiving any medical or other psychiatric treatment which was designed to achieve that result.

Where views differed was in regard to the question whether the fact that his behaviour was being controlled within the hospital could be attributed to medical treatment which he received there, or whether it was due

simply to the fact that he was being confined in secure conditions which prevented the symptoms of his condition from being manifested.

Medication or other psychiatric treatment which was designed to alleviate or prevent a deterioration of the mental disorder plainly fell within the expression "medical treatment" in the context of the section 17(1) "treatability" test.

But his Lordship thought that the scope of that expression was wide enough to include other things which were done for either of those two purposes under medical supervision in the hospital.

R's responsible medical officer had said in his report that R's anger management improved when he was in the structured setting of the hospital. The environment was one which was set up and supervised by the medical officers of the hospital.

While the question was one of fact for the sheriff to decide on the facts of each case, it would be open to him in such circumstances to find that the "treatability" test was satisfied.

In the instant case, the sheriff had found that the condition from which R was suffering was being alleviated by medical treatment which he was receiving in hospital. For reasons given by Lord Clyde, his Lordship agreed that the Second Division had been in error in departing from that finding.

LORD CLYDE, after giving reasons for his dissent, said that the sheriff's finding that R's condition was being alleviated by medical treatment which he was receiving in hospital was not likely to be a sufficient basis for the sheriff to find that the "treatability" test was satisfied.

LORD LLOYD agreed that there had been no grounds for the Inner House to interfere with the sheriff's findings on the evidence. But, in his opinion, the sheriff's finding that R's condition was being alleviated by medical treatment which he was receiving in hospital was not likely to be a sufficient basis for the sheriff to find that the "treatability" test was satisfied.

His Lordship found enough in the sheriff's report to enable him to reach the conclusion which he did.

LORD SLYNN agreed with Lord Hope and Lord Clyde, and Lord Hutton delivered a concurring opinion.

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Community care orders

K (a Patient) v Craig
Before Lord Slynn of Hadley, Lord Lloyd of Berwick, Lord Hoffmann, Lord Hope of Craighead and Lord Hutton

[Speeches December 3]

Although an application under the Mental Health (Scotland) Act 1984 to have a mentally disordered patient cared for in the community and given medication under supervision required a psychiatrist's recommendation that grounds for admission to a hospital did not apply, the psychiatrist was not thereby obliged immediately to discharge the patient from liability to detention in hospital.

The House of Lords so held when unanimously dismissing an appeal by Miss K from a decision dated July 19, 1997 of the First Division of the Inner House of the Court of Session (the Lord President (Lord Rodger), Lord Cameron of Lochbroom and Lord Coulsfield) (1997 SLT 748) upholding a decision of the Outer House (Lord Macninch) on October 19, 1996 had dismissed Miss K's petition for judicial review of the failure of Dr Robert James Craig, consultant psychiatrist at Roslynside Hospital, Midlothian, to discharge her from detention in hospital.

Mr Graham Bell, QC and Mr Stewart, QC and Mr Mark Fitzpatrick for Dr Craig.

LORD HOPE said that a scheme for making community care orders, as part of the system for dealing with mentally disordered patients under the Mental Health (Scotland) Act 1984, was introduced by section 4 of the Mental Health (Patients in the Community) Act 1995.

The effect of that section was to insert into Part V of the 1984 Act which dealt with admission to and detention in hospital and guardianship, a new group of sections which was designed to ensure that mentally disordered patients who were discharged from hospital but still needed treatment would receive that treatment and the necessary after-care in the community.

A similar scheme was introduced into the English legislation, which was to be found in the Mental Health Act 1983, by section 1 of the Mental Health (Patients in the Community) Act 1983. But the English scheme for after-care under supervision differed from the Scottish scheme for community care orders in so many respects that it was of no assistance in the search for a solution to the difficulty which had arisen in this case.

The problem which the new scheme was intended to solve was that which arose when a patient, having been compulsorily admitted to hospital for treatment for mental illness, responded to that treatment, was discharged back into the community but failed to continue to take the medication which had been prescribed, with the result that compulsory re-admission to hospital was necessary.

The aim was to provide an alternative regime to ensure that the necessary treatment was maintained under supervision in the community after the patient's discharge from hospital.

That was consistent with the principle which had informed the entire system which was set out in Part V of the 1984 Act that a mentally disordered patient should not be liable to compulsory detention in hospital for any longer than was necessary.

Miss K, who suffered from schizophrenia, was admitted to hospital in July 1987 and detained there in pursuance of an application for admission under section 18(1) of the 1984 Act.

The effect of that application was that she was liable to be detained in a hospital because it was considered that she was suffering from mental disorder of a nature or degree which made it appropriate for her to receive medical treatment in a hospital, that it was necessary for her health or safety that she received such treatment and that the treatment could not be provided unless she was detained.

Authority for her detention was renewed from time to time in the light of reports on her condition and on the need for her detention, which were furnished to the hospital managers by her responsible medical officer.

In 1994 she was given leave of absence from hospital and she returned to live in the community, but for the time being she remained her status being liable to be detained in a hospital by being recalled by the responsible medical officer at any time.

On October 9, 1996 she was examined by her responsible medical officer, who decided that it would be appropriate to make an application to the sheriff under section 35A(1) of the 1984 Act, as inserted, for a community care order so that, instead of being liable to be detained in a hospital, she was to be subject to the conditions specified in the order with a view to ensuring that she received treatment and the after-care services provided for by section 8.

Section 35A(1) provided that the patient was to cease to be liable to be detained in a hospital under Part V of the Act on the coming into force of a community care order.

His Lordship said that it was impossible to treat the opinion which was expressed in the medical officer's report as a recommendation for a community care order until he was satisfied that the arrangements which he considered necessary for the provision of medical treatment and after-care services to the patient had been made.

Section 35A(6) and (7) made it clear that once the order was made, the patient's liability to be detained in hospital was to continue, even if it would have ceased in other circumstances, until the order had come into force.

Those provisions were designed to ensure that the liability to be compulsorily detained in hospital to receive treatment there continued until the arrangements to provide treatment under supervision in the community had been made and become enforceable.

An application for a community care order had to be made in the prescribed form and accompanied by the medical practitioner's recommendation.

It was clear from the wording of the form and the statutory context in which the recommendation was made that the opinion which the medical practitioner was required to form was that the patient needed medical treatment for a mental disorder but that, detention in a hospital was no longer necessary because the patient could be provided with the necessary supervision to ensure that treatment was continued under a community care order.

Miss K's responsible medical officer signed a recommendation to that effect on October 9, 1996, and on October 11 he lodged with the sheriff an application for a community care order.

On October 29 the appellant petitioned for judicial review seeking a declaration that she was not on October 9 suffering from a mental disorder of a nature or degree which made it appropriate for her to be detained in hospital for treatment and that the failure to discharge her from detention was a breach of the medical officer's obligation under section 35B to discharge a patient who, he was satisfied, was not suffering from a mental disorder of a nature or degree which made it appropriate for her to be detained in hospital for treatment and that the failure to discharge her from detention was a breach of the medical officer's obligation under section 35B to discharge a patient who, he was satisfied, was not suffering from a mental disorder of a nature or degree which made it appropriate for her to be detained in hospital for treatment and that the failure to discharge her from detention was a breach of the medical officer's obligation under section 35B to discharge a patient who, he 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Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Mid Cap Price	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Mid Cap Price	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
52.50	Alfred Dunhill	54.00	+1.50	+2.8	13.4
12.50	Brown & Root	12.50	0.00	0.0	14.5
1.00	Brown & Root	1.00	0.00	0.0	14.5
1.00	Brown & Root	1.00	0.00	0.0	14.5
1.00	Brown & Root	1.00	0.00	0.0	14.5

BANKS

Mid Cap Price	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
16.44	ABN-AMRO	11.50	-4.94	-42.8	13.0
16.70	ABN-AMRO	11.50	-4.94	-42.8	13.0
16.70	ABN-AMRO	11.50	-4.94	-42.8	13.0
16.70	ABN-AMRO	11.50	-4.94	-42.8	13.0
16.70	ABN-AMRO	11.50	-4.94	-42.8	13.0

BREWERS, PUBS & REST

Mid Cap Price	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
52.50	Alfred Dunhill	54.00	+1.50	+2.8	13.4
12.50	Brown & Root	12.50	0.00	0.0	14.5
1.00	Brown & Root	1.00	0.00	0.0	14.5
1.00	Brown & Root	1.00	0.00	0.0	14.5
1.00	Brown & Root	1.00	0.00	0.0	14.5

BUILDING MATERIALS

Mid Cap Price	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
52.50	Alfred Dunhill	54.00	+1.50	+2.8	13.4
12.50	Brown & Root	12.50	0.00	0.0	14.5
1.00	Brown & Root	1.00	0.00	0.0	14.5
1.00	Brown & Root	1.00	0.00	0.0	14.5
1.00	Brown & Root	1.00	0.00	0.0	14.5

CHEMICALS

Mid Cap Price	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
52.50	Alfred Dunhill	54.00	+1.50	+2.8	13.4
12.50	Brown & Root	12.50	0.00	0.0	14.5
1.00	Brown & Root	1.00	0.00	0.0	14.5
1.00	Brown & Root	1.00	0.00	0.0	14.5
1.00	Brown & Root	1.00	0.00	0.0	14.5

CONSTRUCTION

Mid Cap Price	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
52.50	Alfred Dunhill	54.00	+1.50	+2.8	13.4
12.50	Brown & Root	12.50	0.00	0.0	14.5
1.00	Brown & Root	1.00	0.00	0.0	14.5
1.00	Brown & Root	1.00	0.00	0.0	14.5
1.00	Brown & Root	1.00	0.00	0.0	14.5

DISTRIBUTORS

Mid Cap Price	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
52.50	Alfred Dunhill	54.00	+1.50	+2.8	13.4
12.50	Brown & Root	12.50	0.00	0.0	14.5
1.00	Brown & Root	1.00	0.00	0.0	14.5
1.00	Brown & Root	1.00	0.00	0.0	14.5
1.00	Brown & Root	1.00	0.00	0.0	14.5

Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

Mid Cap Price	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
52.50	Alfred Dunhill	54.00	+1.50	+2.8	13.4
12.50	Brown & Root	12.50	0.00	0.0	14.5
1.00	Brown & Root	1.00	0.00	0.0	14.5
1.00	Brown & Root	1.00	0.00	0.0	14.5
1.00	Brown & Root	1.00	0.00	0.0	14.5

HEALTHCARE

Mid Cap Price	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
52.50	Alfred Dunhill	54.00	+1.50	+2.8	13.4
12.50	Brown & Root	12.50	0.00	0.0	14.5
1.00	Brown & Root	1.00	0.00	0.0	14.5
1.00	Brown & Root	1.00	0.00	0.0	14.5
1.00	Brown & Root	1.00	0.00	0.0	14.5

HOUSEHOLD GOODS & TEXT

Mid Cap Price	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
52.50	Alfred Dunhill	54.00	+1.50	+2.8	13.4
12.50	Brown & Root	12.50	0.00	0.0	14.5
1.00	Brown & Root	1.00	0.00	0.0	14.5
1.00	Brown & Root	1.00	0.00	0.0	14.5
1.00	Brown & Root	1.00	0.00	0.0	14.5

INSURANCE

Mid Cap Price	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
52.50	Alfred Dunhill	54.00	+1.50	+2.8	13.4
12.50	Brown & Root	12.50	0.00	0.0	14.5
1.00	Brown & Root	1.00	0.00	0.0	14.5
1.00	Brown & Root	1.00	0.00	0.0	14.5
1.00	Brown & Root	1.00	0.00	0.0	14.5

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Mid Cap Price	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
52.50	Alfred Dunhill	54.00	+1.50	+2.8	13.4
12.50	Brown & Root	12.50	0.00	0.0	14.5
1.00	Brown & Root	1.00	0.00	0.0	14.5
1.00	Brown & Root	1.00	0.00	0.0	14.5
1.00	Brown & Root	1.00	0.00	0.0	14.5

ENGINEERING VEHICLES

Mid Cap Price	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
52.50	Alfred Dunhill	54.00	+1.50	+2.8	13.4
12.50	Brown & Root	12.50	0.00	0.0	14.5
1.00	Brown & Root	1.00	0.00	0.0	14.5
1.00	Brown & Root	1.00	0.00	0.0	14.5
1.00	Brown & Root	1.00	0.00	0.0	14.5

Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

PRINTING & PAPER

Mid Cap Price	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
52.50	Alfred Dunhill	54.00	+1.50	+2.8	13.4
12.50	Brown & Root	12.50	0.00	0.0	14.5
1.00	Brown & Root	1.00	0.00	0.0	14.5
1.00	Brown & Root	1.00	0.00	0.0	14.5
1.00	Brown & Root	1.00	0.00	0.0	14.5

PROPERTY

Mid Cap Price	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
52.50	Alfred Dunhill	54.00	+1.50	+2.8	13.4
12.50	Brown & Root	12.50	0.00	0.0	14.5
1.00	Brown & Root	1.00	0.00	0.0	14.5
1.00	Brown & Root	1.00	0.00	0.0	14.5
1.00	Brown & Root	1.00	0.00	0.0	14.5

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Mid Cap Price	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
52.50	Alfred Dunhill	54.00	+1.50	+2.8	13.4
12.50	Brown & Root	12.50	0.00	0.0	14.5
1.00	Brown & Root	1.00	0.00	0.0	14.5
1.00	Brown & Root	1.00	0.00	0.0	14.5
1.00	Brown & Root	1.00	0.00	0.0	14.5

TRANSPORT

Mid Cap Price	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
52.50	Alfred Dunhill	54.00	+1.50	+2.8	13.4
12.50	Brown & Root	12.50	0.00	0.0	14.5
1.00	Brown & Root	1.00	0.00	0.0	14.5
1.00	Brown & Root	1.00	0.00	0.0	14.5
1.00	Brown & Root	1.00	0.00	0.0	14.5

WATER

Mid Cap Price	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
52.50	Alfred Dunhill	54.00	+1.50	+2.8	13.4
12.50	Brown & Root	12.50	0.00	0.0	14.5
1.00	Brown & Root	1.00	0.00	0.0	14.5
1.00	Brown & Root	1.00	0.00	0.0	14.5
1.00	Brown & Root	1.00	0.00	0.0	14.5

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

Mid Cap Price	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
52.50	Alfred Dunhill	54.00	+1.50	+2.8	13.4
12.50	Brown & Root	12.50	0.00	0.0	14.5
1.00	Brown & Root	1.00	0.00	0.0	14.5
1.00	Brown & Root	1.00	0.00	0.0	14.5
1.00	Brown & Root	1.00	0.00	0.0	14.5

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SHORTS (under 5 years)

Stock	Price	Change	%	P/E
1.75	1.75	0.00	0.0	14.5
1.75	1.75	0.00	0.0	14.5
1.75	1.75	0.00	0.0	14.5

LONGS (over 15 years)

Stock	Price	Change	%	P/E
1.75	1.75	0.00	0.0	14.5
1.75	1.75	0.00	0.0	14.5
1.75	1.75	0.00	0.0	14.5

UNDATED

Stock	Price	Change	%	P/E
1.75	1.75	0.00	0.0	14.5
1.75	1.75	0.00	0.0	14.5
1.75	1.75	0.00	0.0	14.5

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of 0%

Stock	Price	Change	%	P/E
1.75	1.75	0.00	0.0	14.5
1.75	1.75	0.00	0.0	14.5
1.75	1.75	0.00	0.0	14.5

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

Stock	Price	Change	%	P/E
1.75	1.75	0.00	0.0	14.5
1.75	1.75	0.00	0.0	14.5
1.75	1.75	0.00	0.0	14.5

COMPANIES

MICHAEL CLARK

City looks for deal from Racal



Sir Ernest Harrison will be centre stage on Thursday as he prepares to retire as Racal chairman

RACAL ELECTRONICS: The City has been keeping a close eye on the electronics group to see whether Sir Ernest Harrison, chairman, can pull yet another rabbit out of the hat before he steps down. Speculators hope for a deal that will catapult the share price back up, so analysts will watch closely when interim results are published on Thursday.

These will be the first figures from Racal since its disposal of Data Communications activities to Platinum for £28.5 million.

Pre-tax profit forecasts range from £27.5 million to £36.5 million, against £9.2 million a year earlier after heavy exceptional.

Analysts expect an unchanged interim payout of 2.1p from earnings per share of about 9p (2p).

Since selling Data Communications, Racal has focused on telecommunications services, defence electronics and industrial electronics activities.

BT Alex Brown, the house broker, forecasts first-half pre-tax profit of £36.5 million and earnings per share of 9.2p.

SCOTTISH & NEWCASTLE: The poor summer, falling beer sales and depressed consumer spending will leave Britain's biggest brewer with a hangover when interim results are announced tomorrow.

Pre-tax profits are expected to be £210 million to £230 million, against £224.5 million last time. Beer sales suffered with the rest of the market in July and August, down by more than 10 per cent. For the six months, Scottish Courage volumes are thought to have fallen by about 5 per cent.

In pub retailing, growth is expected to have slowed as trading conditions deteriorated. Like-for-like wet sales are reported to have been some 2.5 per cent lower, although total food sales are growing at double-digit rates.

Nick Lyall, of SG Securities, expects first-half pre-tax profits to emerge at £218.9 million, giving earnings per share of 26.4p.

Analysts will study whether returns from the branded retailing operations are holding up. Last year, average returns from the managed outlets were 27 per

cent, while, across the group, returns averaged 16 per cent.

Capital spending is forecast to be about £400 million this financial year, to April 1999, as the group continues to invest in its key branded retail chains, including Chief & Brewer, Rat & Parrot and the Barras community pubs.

The City will want to see how the group's Center Parcs leisure sites did this summer and whether upgraded facilities helped profitability.

Analysts expect an interim payout of about 8.5p, up from 7.95p.

GREENALLS: The pubs and De Vere hotels group is expected to report pre-exceptional pre-tax profits of £156 million to £163 million in final results on Wednesday, against £157.3 million last year. A total payout of about 17.8p, up from 16.7p, is forecast.

The group has switched the focus of capital expenditure plans to its hotel and leisure operations. The decision to cut spending on its core managed pubs estate came after a general fall in consumer expenditure, higher interest rates and increased competition in the high street managed pubs sector.

Analysts will be looking to see how investment returns in the managed pubs estate have fared in the second half.

LUCASVARITY: The end of the General Motors strike is expected to bring a strong bounce in third-quarter profits due from the automotive parts group tomorrow.

Lehman Brothers, the US broker, is forecasting pre-tax profits of £100 million, against £85 million last time, with earnings per

share of about 4.7p. That would stretch profits for the first nine months of the year to £263 million, from £234 million last time.

The results are likely to include provisions relating to the failure to move LucasVarity's domicile to the US. Institutions will now be taxing the group on its future strategy after rejection by shareholders of this move.

The aerospace division continues to make progress, reflecting high aircraft delivery rates, but margins have been under pressure because of inconsistent demand for spares.

COMPASS GROUP: Steady, if unspectacular, performance is expected in the contract caterer's full-year results on Thursday.

Pre-tax profits should rise to between £156 million and £162 million, from £137.8 million. Earnings per share are likely to be about 17.2p, against 15.7p. The full-year dividend should rise by about 12 per cent to 5.5p.

Brokers reckon headline earnings growth will look sluggish at about 8 per cent, blaming the negative impact of currency translation. About 75 per cent of group profits are generated abroad.

STAGECOACH: Strong performances by South West Trains and the Porterbrook leasing division will provide the basis for strong interim results on Thursday. Pre-tax profits should rise from £73.1 million to £94 million with earnings per share up from 4.3p to 5.4p, according to BT Alex Brown, the broker.

BERKELEY GROUP: Interim results tomorrow give the housebuilder a chance to ease City fears that it is losing some of the momentum that has made it Britain's premier housebuilder.

Pre-tax profits should be £54.5 million, up 24 per cent, with earnings per share steady at 30p. Expect a 2.8p payout, up from 2.65p.

Tony Pidgley, chairman, earlier this year reported signs of the South East market running out of steam. Brokers will need reassurance after the setting aside of cash from October's £125 million rights issue to buy sites.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Pressure on MPC for another cut

The key event of the economic week will, of course, be the meeting on Wednesday and Thursday of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee. After last week's co-ordinated euro 11 rate cuts, the pressure is on the MPC to deliver at least a further quarter-point cut in base rates. The other main focus, given the rows over European tax policy, will be the two-day meeting of heads of state in Austria starting on Friday.

There are only two British statistical releases of note this week. October figures for industrial production are published today. Total production is expected, according to the market consensus, to fall 0.2 per cent, following a decline of 0.6 per cent in September. This would mean a year-on-year drop of 0.1 per cent. Manufacturing is expected to fall by 0.3 per cent, giving a year-on-year decline of 0.7 per cent.

Tomorrow the British Retail Consortium publishes its latest retail sales monitor and this, given recent weak survey evidence from the Confederation of British Industry, is expected to confirm a general loss of confidence among consumers and a sharp easing of high street activity.

The other important indicators are from overseas. On Sunday Japan publishes its latest Tankan report assessing the economy. It is expected to show a further deterioration in the economy, perhaps at a slower pace. Business sentiment is expected to be weak and private capital investment plans are being revised downwards.

October German industrial production figures are released during the week and, given a rapid decline in business confidence last month, are expected to be weak. November's German unemployment figures are published tomorrow. The strength or weakness of euroland demand will be a big issue in the months ahead as the markets try to analyse whether last week's cut in euro rates to 3 per cent will be the last for the foreseeable future, as the European Central Bank has suggested.

American interest rates are also an issue and Wednesday sees publication of the Beige Book economic analysis by the US Federal Reserve that will be used at the December 22 meeting of the Federal Open Market Committee.

Another interesting release on Wednesday is November industrial output in China, which is cutting key interest rates by half a point. The central bank said the move was designed to boost demand and to promote strong and healthy growth.

JANET BUSH

The Sunday Times: Buy Gal-laher, Stagecoach, Radstone Technology, Sage, Capital and Regional; Sell Vodafone. **The Sunday Telegraph:** Buy Alstom, Iceland, John Menzies, Menmore Abbey; Sell Daily Mail & General Trust. **The Observer:** Buy GEC. **The Express on Sunday:** Buy BG, Johnson Matthey, Thorntons. **The Mail on Sunday:** Buy Mayflower, Thames Water, Cadbury Schweppes; Hold H Young; Sell DFS.

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The skies are darkening. Forget the stock market's knee-jerk euphoric reaction to the reduction in European interest rates. It is the British consumer we have to worry about now. This week's BRC survey will be closely watched to see if it confirms the apparent message of last week's CBI distributive trades survey, namely that gloom is spreading from manufacturing to consumer spending.

But why should consumers be drawing in their horns? After all, real incomes are increasing nicely and jobs are plentiful. House prices are still rising and consumers are no longer weighed down by negative equity.

Perhaps, unlike the macroeconomic forecasters, they can see the full implications of manufacturing's dire plight and they fear for the future. Perhaps the stock market mini-crash in August and the crisis in East Asia have seriously affected the public mood. According to one view, "the media" is to blame for harping on about bad news. As a result, we are supposedly in danger of talk-

Consumers sense recession is overdue

ing ourselves into recession. Yet this is most unsatisfactory. After the 1987 maxi-crash there was no drawing in of horns. Quite the opposite. Indeed, the property market did not reach a peak until much later. As for the recent television shots of trouble in Indonesia, I cannot believe that this has that much restraining effect in the Temples of Mammon at Lakeside or the Metro Centre.

Even so, consumer confidence is the issue. Economists try to analyse it, yet somehow it slips through their fingers. And simple swings in confidence produce dramatic changes in savings behaviour, which break the most sophisticated of forecasts.

In the mid-1970s the percentage of incomes that people saved rose to a peak of 15 per cent. Economists had argued that high inflation would cause people to save less. But faced with the falling

real value of their savings people saved more. At the peak of the Lawson boom, however, it was exactly the opposite. The savings ratio plummeted to 5 per cent. After the event, economists gave us the explanation. This was the time when people relied on the appreciation of their houses to do their saving for them, and when the future was another country.

Overall consumer confidence is a bit like the confidence of individuals — partly the direct result of objective circumstance and partly that indefinable something. As far as objective circumstance is concerned, you can guess why people may be feeling wary. It is to do with jobs. The macroeconomic modelers who implicitly think of people as automata cannot see this. After all, the percentage of the workforce unemployed is currently very low.

But since when has confidence



ROGER BOOTLE

had anything to do with percentages? The underlying lack of confidence of British consumers is based on the perception that jobs are not secure. You can invest 10 or 20 years of your life working for an organisation, public or private, and at a time of their choosing, often without warning, they can say thank you, but no thank you. You are spewed out. It may

be because your company has merged with another, or because a new chief executive has to make his mark, or because at 50 you are "too old".

No matter. People know that, more or less whatever they do, they have no security. Moreover, much of what determines their fate seems to be playing the lottery with their lives.

Still, there is a puzzle. Why have these feelings appeared only now? After all, job insecurity is nothing new. I suspect that such feelings have been strong for some time, but their effects have been obscured by one-off factors, including the recovery of the housing market and the melting of negative equity after the appalling consumer recession of 1990-92.

More recently, there were the windfalls from demutualising

building societies. Last year economists were obsessed with these windfalls. This year they have hardly rated a mention. Yet the issue is still crucial. The payouts amounted to the best part of £40 billion, or roughly 5 per cent of the national income. Much ink was spilt on the question of what people would do with the money. The rational thing was to treat this as an addition to your wealth and to spread the proceeds over your life. The result? A piffing thing that you could readily ignore.

The alternative? To blow the lot on a holiday, or a good Christmas or whatever, and when spending the money, to give hearty thanks to the Halifax, or some other source of munificence. I suspect many people took the irrational alternative.

So the underlying position may have been much weaker than it

looked. It was simply disguised by the one-off spending from the windfalls. But even this strikes me as too rational. In the world of fashion, the length for hemlines on women's skirts undergo a marked cyclical variation without apparent rhyme or reason, and without any individual determining what is fashionable or not. The fashion simply emerges. The same thing that was the height of fashion one year is simply unthinkable the next.

I suspect that something similar happens with consumer confidence. The fluctuations of optimism and pessimism in society are to some extent natural, just as they are for individuals. People are currently susceptible to the idea that recession is round the corner because they have had several good years.

If today's same worries had been present three years ago, people would not have so readily believed in the gloom and doom stuff. They would not have been "ready" for a recession. I have a nasty feeling that they are ready for one now.

UK's small firms lead Germany over euro

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS EDITOR

SMALL and medium-sized companies in Britain, with its opt-out from the European single currency, are still more than twice as prepared for monetary union as German firms that will see the introduction of the euro in less than four weeks' time, according to the latest European Business Survey by Grant Thornton.

A surprisingly big 19 per cent of UK small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) have amended their business strategies for the euro, but only 5 per cent of the German *Mittelstand* have made any preparations. This is the same proportion as in Denmark and Malta, neither of which is adopting the euro when it is launched on January 1.

Indeed, the study shows that German firms of this size are the least positive and least prepared of the 20 nations polled (the euro 11 plus Britain, Sweden, Denmark, Greece, Malta, Norway, Poland, Switzerland and Turkey). The survey showed that 21 per cent of British SMEs are positive about the euro, against only 21 per cent of German companies.

Although the UK is not in the first wave of countries adopting the euro, the study found that 21 per cent of Brit-

ish SMEs expect to be invoicing in it by the end of 1999. This is not dramatically below the 39 per cent in France and the 30 per cent in Germany.

Andrew Godfrey, of Grant Thornton, said: "European businesses which trade overseas must realise that some multinational firms have already decided to invoice in, and accept, the euro from the start of the changeover process. This action could result in the euro coming through the back door in countries that are not going into EMU."

Overall, about two thirds of SMEs in the euro zone expect to be paying bills in euros by the end of 2000. In Britain, this is currently the case for only 32 per cent of firms surveyed, against 68 per cent in France, 60 per cent in Germany and 77 per cent for both Belgium and the Irish Republic.

Bridget Rosewell, of Business Strategies, which did the survey, concluded that Europe's small and medium-sized firms feel that the euro's effect on them will be small, with prices and interest rates largely expected to stay the same. Although this was sensible for now, they would have to move more quickly if the euro turns out to have greater effects.



Tim How, head of Majestic Wine, which is in dispute with Marne, the French champagne business, over discounting

Majestic in champagne battle

BY MANUS COSTELLO

MAJESTIC WINE and the distributors of Lanson champagne are in dispute over discounting, and the disagreement will this week see the drinks retailer sued for money owed since last Christmas.

Marne, the French champagne business, and its Champagne Diffusion subsidiary have issued a writ against Majestic, suing for the costs of

champagne that was delivered, but not paid for. They claim that Majestic has withheld payment because of a dispute over the size of discounts offered by Marne, and are seeking more than £850,000.

Pierre Grues, Marne UK's general manager, said: "I am a bit shy over this matter. Being a Frenchman, I do not want to elaborate too much before going to court." He said that Marne had been "very pe-

tient" about the payment, which has been outstanding since last year. "Regrettably we must now proceed against Majestic," he said.

Tim How, chief executive of Majestic, confirmed that the writ was part of a dispute between the companies over discounting, but expressed "amusement" at the turn of events having now taken.

"This is a bizarre way for a major champagne house and

a major retailer to resolve a dispute," he said. "We have had negotiations with Marne which date back to last Christmas. We shall be defending our position vigorously."

The writ, issued in the High Court, says that Marne is owed £6.38 million (£680,000) for "goods sold and supplied" and interest of £1.72 million. It has not yet been served, but the solicitors say Majestic can expect to receive it this week.

Countrywide rejects UKAV call to hive off life business

BY RICHARD MILES

COUNTRYWIDE Assured, owner of the UK's biggest network of estate agents, has rejected calls from the UK Active Value Fund to hive off its life assurance business into a separate company.

UKAV, which built a stake of more than 3 per cent in Countrywide Assured after the Hambro Group ceded control of the business earlier this year, has pressed for the break-up of the company with a view to boosting its market valuation. Julian Treger, the investment activist who, with Bryan Myerson, manages UKAV, says that Countrywide Assured is valued at 8.5 times current earnings, against an average multiple of 23.1 for the life insurance sector.

Although Countrywide Assured's board is sympathetic to some of Mr Treger's views, it has yet to be persuaded that the two main businesses can be disentangled. The board also believes that the life assurance business cannot feasibly trade on its own because it is too small.

A spokesman for Countrywide Assured this weekend pointed out that the company had already sought shareholders' approval to buy back up to 10 per cent of its shares, another of the demands made by Mr Treger.

The main shareholder in Countrywide, with more than 20 per cent, is GRE, the insurance company, which is itself at the centre of bid talk, fol-

lowed by Legal & General, the insurer.

UKAV backed the £270 million bid by John Mansfield, the timber company, for Marley, the embattled building materials group. However, this bid was withdrawn on Friday after an offer from a Belgian building materials company, topped Mansfield's bid.

National Grid in Brazil bid

NATIONAL GRID is to join forces with Sprint, the US telephone company, in a £600 million consortium to bid for a licence to build a national telephone network in Brazil.

The move will capitalise on the expertise National Grid built up while it was developing Energis, the group's telecommunications operation, which it has successfully floated on the stock market. Brazil has invited bids for one national phone network and four regional networks, with bids due in by the end of this week.

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Denmark Kr	11.22	10.33
Egypt	5.66	5.23
Finland Mk	9.05	8.33
France Fr	9.85	9.07
Germany Dm	2.963	2.718
Greece Dr	296	257
Hong Kong \$	13.70	12.50
Iceland	128	108
Indonesia	16154	11154
Ireland P	1.1793	1.0902
Israel Sh	7.22	6.62
Italy Lira	2.12	2.07
Japan Yen	212.63	195.10
Malta	0.664	0.605
Netherlands Gld	2.343	3.048
New Zealand \$	3.33	3.09
Norway Kr	13.00	12.06
Portugal Esc	203.45	271.43
S. Africa Rd	10.26	9.40
Spain Pta	249.33	230.52
Sweden Kr	14.24	13.14
Switzerland Fr	2.535	2.220
Turkey Lira	5.1265	4.6478
USA \$	1.768	1.623

Rates for credit card payments banknotes only as supplied by Barclay's Bank. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Ruling due on Ingram tax case

BY ANNE ASHWORTH

THE House of Lords is expected to give judgment this week in the long-running Ingram inheritance tax case. If the ruling goes against the Inland Revenue, the cost to it may be as much as £500 million a year.

At issue is the legality of tax avoidance schemes set up in the 1980s that were designed to allow properties to be transferred by elderly owners to their children, while letting the parents stay in residence.

The Inland Revenue challenged a scheme under which the late Lady Ingram gave away the freehold of her 25-acre estate in Berkshire to a trust in return for a 20-year rent-free lease. The beneficiaries of the trust were Lady In-

gram's children. The deal was done in 1987. Lady Ingram died two years later.

Although the taxman argued that the transaction was a "gift with reservation", in which the donor retains some benefit, making the whole of the property subject to inheritance tax, Mr Justice Ferris disagreed. He held that Lady Ingram would not be able to sell the lease, which was a "wasting, non-assignable asset, incapable of realisation". In 1997, the taxman successfully appealed against his ruling, but the Ingrams have taken the case to the Lords.

The case has repercussions for some commercial property deals involving leases.

Aston Martin suing Prince Jefri for £4m

PRINCE Jefri Bolkiah, playboy brother of the Sultan of Brunei, is being sued for nearly £4 million because he bought 25 Aston Martin Lagondas and has yet to pay (see page 10).

The cars were all purchased in the past two years. Many of them have been modified with extras demanded by the Prince, who was sacked as head of the Brunei Investment Agency (BIA) last year amid allegations that he had run up losses of billions of dollars in the \$35 billion (£21 billion) fund. The standard cost of an Aston Martin Lagonda is between £84,950 and £189,950.

A writ issued by Aston Martin last week says that the amount owed by Prince Jefri is



Prince Jefri: lavish lifestyle

£3.61 million. There is also interest on overdue payments of more than £276,000, which is rising by £963 a day. It is not known whether

Prince Jefri, who was unavailable to comment on the action, drove all the sports cars. It is suspected that many were given away as gifts. Prince Jefri is known for a lavish lifestyle of parties and polo and was active on the social scene in London, Paris and Los Angeles.

Although he is no longer in charge of the BIA and Amadeo, the Brunei construction company now being run by Arthur Andersen, the accountants, Prince Jefri still has substantial business interests, including hotels and Asprey & Garrard, the jewellers. He is estranged from his brother, said to be the second-richest man in the world. Aston Martin, now owned by Ford, declined to comment.



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Britain goes in search of continuity

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3	0%	2.80	10 Qip	118	118	1%	486	17%	9.18	Thom Petroleum	20	+	...	54.8	...	2	1	6.70	AT&T Group	11
101	74%	13.80	ATA Systems	119	119	486	17%	9.18	Thom Petroleum	20	+	...	54.8	...	2	1	6.70	AT&T Group	11
120	74%	13.80	ATA Systems	119	119	486	17%	9.18	Thom Petroleum	20	+	...	54.8	...	2	1	6.70	AT&T Group	11
120	74%	13.80	ATA Systems	119	119	486	17%	9.18	Thom Petroleum	20	+	...	54.8	...	2	1	6.70	AT&T Group	11
271	17%	8.25	ATA Group	120	120	486	17%	9.18	Thom Petroleum	20	+	...	54.8	...	2	1	6.70	AT&T Group	11
67	47%	6.27	Adia Group	120	120	486	17%	9.18	Thom Petroleum	20	+	...	54.8	...	2	1	6.70	AT&T Group	11
67	47%	6.27	Adia Group	120	120	486	17%	9.18	Thom Petroleum	20	+	...	54.8	...	2	1	6.70	AT&T Group	11
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Investors lose out as share certificates are lost

BY CAROLINE MERRELL

THE share certificates of about 1,500 people who deal with Barclays Stockbrokers in Glasgow have been lost through the Royal Mail. The bungle could cost the clients thousands of pounds in total in terms of indemnity fees to replace the certificates, and in terms of missing the most appropriate moment to sell shares. Barclays said the problem lay at the feet of the Royal Mail, which had lost several sackfuls of mail. A spokeswoman said: "The Royal Mail has launched a serious investigation. The problem is not with the stockbrokers."

She advised those who had been effected to contact the share registrars to arrange for replacements. She indicated that the bank would not consider offering customers compensation for any losses. However, she pointed out that if the loss meant that the customers went into overdraft, the bank would arrange for the overdraft to be given free of charge.

Richard Rogers, a retired journalist from London, is furious over the problems because he needs the proceeds from the sale of his tranche of BT shares for when he returns from a trip to France. He is annoyed that he only recently received what was clearly a standard letter from Barclays. He points out: "If they had this problem, they should have informed me of this. I expect better treatment from Barclays."

"They say they have no responsibilities for this and are not planning to offer compensation. Let Royal Mail and Barclays sort this out."



Dying breed: the open outcry system's days are numbered after electronic trading at Liffe was introduced with a minimum of disruption last week.

Liffe takes heart from smooth start to electronic trading

BY MARTIN WALLER

BUSINESS at Liffe, the London futures and options exchange, increased after last week's introduction of electronic trading, allowing the new management to hope that it has turned the tide of the market's long-term decline.

Final figures released on Friday night showed that average daily volumes of equity options, which were traded electronically for the first time on Monday, were running at 11,925 contracts. This compares with 11,631 contracts on average for each day in October. The increase is small, but it is seen as highly significant because of the inevitable disruption caused by the introduction of the new trading system.

Liffe Connect, the new trading system, was introduced last week.

Hugh Freedburg, the new chief executive at Liffe, said there were no glitches and no computer crashes during the first week of electronic trading. "We have every reason to believe that we have launched the cornerstone of Liffe's future," he said.

"We're absolutely thrilled with the way it has worked - it has exceeded our expectations. We expected the transfer to result in perhaps a quieter level of activity because all the users would have to take time getting used to the system in a live environment. In fact, they came out on day one and trading was as if it was a normal day."

Trading in equities options is only a small part of the market's business, equivalent to perhaps 3 per cent of the total, but the product is an extremely complex one.

A successful launch for the first trading on the Connect system, therefore, was vital if plans for further electronic trading, which will account for the majority of Liffe's business by the end of next year, are to progress according to schedule.

There had been between 40 and 50 traders dealing in equity options on the floor of Liffe, but in all 200 are now qualified to deal electronically on the new system. The advantage of Connect is that it allows deals to be done from any standard personal computer rather than the old trading floor, so extending the geographical spread of firms that can conduct their business at Liffe. The management hopes that once the majority of work is done on screen, this will reverse the loss of volumes to other exchanges around the world.

Connect is costing Liffe a total of £35 million to develop and introduce. The next test comes in April, when gilt trading goes electronic. But the mass of business will shift off the floor next summer.

Futures in the various stock market indices such as the FTSE 100 and Eurostoxx will switch from May, and various bond instruments will go a month later.

From late July trading starts on Connect in short-term interest rate contracts, a key product at Liffe, although business will be conducted in parallel on the floor for as long as member firms wish.

Although there are still 1,500 traders in their distinctive coloured jackets trading face-to-face on the trading floor - a system known as "open outcry" - some observers are forecasting that all could eventually disappear in the electronic era.

Gates makes \$3m foray into real estate

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

BILL GATES, the Microsoft chairman, has made his first foray into the property sector after a lifetime of dabbling with microchips, motherboards and software applications.

The world's richest man, who has few investments outside the technology sector, is the lead tenant at a new exclusive resort in the Californian desert called The Reserve and has invested an initial \$3 million (about £1.8 million) of his \$60 billion fortune in a two-acre site.

Mr Gates, who is also believed to have a stake in the management company, and the developers hope his name

will be enough to entice other billionaires to buy one of the 17 mansions or 230 resort homes in the exclusive Coachella Valley near Palm Springs.

The heavily guarded resort will be built around an 18-hole golf course. To guarantee seclusion, the golf course will allow only one club membership per resort home, giving stars and deal-makers the privacy they crave.

Mr Gates already has one luxury home. He built a \$60 million mansion on a lake shore near Seattle, in Washington State, where Microsoft is based. He lives there with his wife, Melinda, and their daughter, Jennifer.

Greenalls and Nomura set for £375m pubs deal

BY JASON NISSE

GREENALLS, the pubs and hotels group, is set to sell 1,400 tenanted pubs to the principle finance side of Nomura, the Japanese investment bank, in a £375 million deal to be announced this week.

The move will boost the presence of Nomura, which is one of Britain's largest landlords and is preparing to float part of its portfolio as the Unique Brewing Company. Unique is set to be valued at £1 billion.

Nomura, whose principle finance unit is run by Guy Hands, beat off stiff competition from Greene King, the East Anglian brewer, and Charterhouse Development Capital. The deal means that it

will have about 2,500 pubs left in its portfolio after the Unique float in 2001. It will contain most of the larger, more lucrative pubs, with the remainder coming largely from Nomura's Spring Inn and Innkeeper portfolios.

The disposal of the tenanted estate will virtually eradicate Greenalls' borrowings and allow it to concentrate on its managed pub estate, its De Vere hotels operation and Village Leisure health club businesses.

The business sold made operating profits of £38.9 million last year, but this is expected to drop as the economic slowdown starts to hit the leisure sector.

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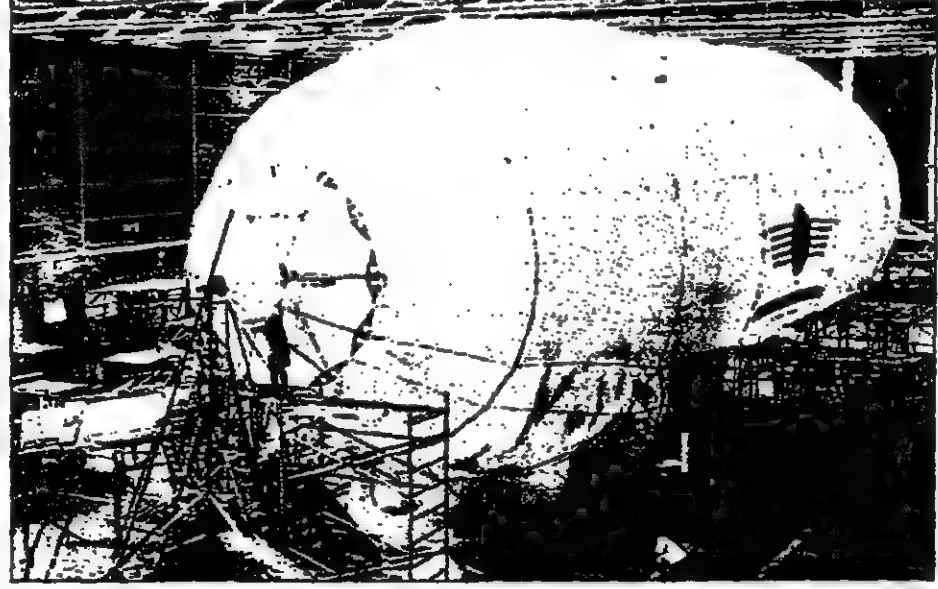
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The Hamilton prototype that was scheduled to fly from Cape Town to New York before 2000

Listing for Hamilton airship grounded

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT IN JOHANNESBURG

A SOUTH AFRICAN company, which was racing to launch the first commercial rigid airship since the Hindenburg, was grounded this weekend as it delayed its listing on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange for a second time.

The company said: "It is with regret that the directors of the Hamilton Airship Company have, due to market conditions, decided to postpone the listing of the company ... until further notice."

Hamilton, run from a converted manor house in a plush neighbourhood of Johannesburg, hoped to raise 200 million rand (£21 million) from the listing to progress from a prototype to a 140-metre-long passenger-carrying airship.

The as-yet-unbuilt dirigible,

which President Mandela has said can be called the Nelson, was scheduled to make a five-day flight from Cape Town to New York some time before the millennium. But a combination of volatile world markets and allegations - subsequently dismissed - that the firm was misleading the public about its affairs have delayed the necessary cash injection.

In June Jonathan Hamilton, founder and director of the company, put off a listing on the risk-capital sector of the Johannesburg Stock Exchange a month after allegations emerged that the company was not being straight with the public in proceedings filed with the Johannesburg High Court, a former Hamilton finance director claimed that he

resigned after certain financial "irregularities" came to light. The allegations were dismissed by the court, but the financial disaster for raising capital through a listing then deteriorated as emerging market storm clouds began to gather.

The Hamilton Airship Company - one of 15 firms in ten countries scrambling to get a workable, passenger-carrying rigid airship airborne - received a one million rand industrial innovation grant from the Government in October. That put plans to finish testing the prototype and start work on the Nelson back on track.

Hamilton's brokers said the company would not issue shares in the public this year, but would look at doing so early next year.

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THE FACTS

Market capitalisation: £2.52 billion
 Net assets: £266 million
 Pre-tax profit: £127 million
 Gross assets: £5.7 billion
 Net assets: £3 billion
 Activities: property investment and development
 Employees: 401
 Joint ventures:
 The Public House Company, BLT Properties, BL Universal, BL Rank Properties, Tesco British Land Property Partnership.

THE BOARD

John Ritblat, 62, is the British Land chairman and managing director. In 1969 he became managing director of Union Property Holdings and subsequently chairman of British Land in 1971 after its merger with Union. He is also chairman of Milner Estates, the parent of Conrad Ritblat & Co, of which he was co-founder.

Cyril Meekins, 74, executive director, joined the board of British Land in 1971. Formerly senior partner in Sayer Hayward, the accountancy firm, he joined British Land in 1971 from N M Rothschild and was formerly joint general manager of Abbey National Building Society.

Stephen Kalman, 59, executive director, responsible for development projects. **Nicholas Ritblat**, 37, executive director. He joined British Land in 1987 from SG Warburg's corporate finance department. He is the son of John Ritblat.

Robert Bowles, 55, executive director. He is a former senior partner in Conrad Ritblat & Co, of which he was co-founder.

Shen Adams, 51, executive director. He joined British Land in 1996 and was formerly managing director of Broadgate Properties.

Peter Simon, 68, non-executive director. Formerly deputy group chief executive of Legal & General.

Michael Cassidy, 51, non-executive director. Senior partner in Maxwell Batley, solicitors, and formerly chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee of the Corporation of London.

John Reynolds, 49, non-executive director. Chairman of European Corporate Finance at ABN Amro Bank.

The British Land Company was created by the Victorian free-trade campaigners Richard Cobden and John Bright in 1856. And right from its inception, owning property was not the objective of the company, but merely a means to an end.

Cobden, Bright and Sir Josiah Walsley met at the London Tavern in Bishopsgate in 1849 to form the National Freehold Land Society. At the time, the right to vote was restricted to property owners. The purpose of Cobden and Bright's society was to enfranchise ordinary people by giving them a share in a freehold, requiring an investment of £60 to £70.

Because the society had no legal right to own land, the British Land Company was formed to hold title to the properties and the relationship continued until 1878, when British Land repaid its debts to the National Freehold Land Society, the precursor of Abbey National.

British Land still has a link with Bishopsgate, owning a good stretch of prime property in the street, but it forms part of a vast portfolio valued, in March, at £5.8 billion. In terms of stock market worth, British Land is the second-largest property company in the UK, after Land Securities. However, it has, under its current management, displayed a pragmatic attitude towards owning real estate.

Trophy buildings and monuments are hard to find in the British Land catalogue. Indeed, the last annual report was decorated with pictures of real tennis, a game favoured by the company's chairman, John Ritblat. The "boring old buildings", as he refers to them, are listed at the back and are, indeed, somewhat dull, including a half share in 300 pubs, a portfolio of Sainsbury and Tesco stores and a long list of regional office and retail investments.

Yet these businesses make money, generating profits of more than £100 million. Mr Ritblat is not obsessed with building pyramids; it is what endears him to investors and reinforces his reputation as a shrewd dealmaker. He shows scant interest in architecture; instead, his enthusiasms are Old Masters and antiquarian books, and he has helped to finance a home for the British Library's rare books collection.

British Land was one of the few property companies to emerge relatively unscathed from the property collapse in the early 1990s. Unlike rivals such as MEPC, British Land was not burdened by empty developments. It also quickly realised that income was the key to survival and bought itself a lifeline from the food retailers.

CORPORATE PROFILE: *British Land*

John Ritblat, chairman of British Land, is more likely to be excited by art and antique books than by office blocks, and has helped to finance a wing of the British Library, bottom left. The company's properties include 175 Bishopsgate, which houses the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development



Against prevailing wisdom that supermarkets were poor investments, British Land poured money into them, doing sale-and-leasebacks with companies keen to raise capital for expansion. Being the only buyer, British Land could secure leases with guaranteed rent uplifts, an extraordinary boon when rents elsewhere were going nowhere, enabling the company to pay its interest bill and a dividend.

Mr Ritblat learnt his trade as a property agent, working at Edward Erdman. He later set up his own surveying firm with Neville Conrad and their Conrad Ritblat has since taken over the firm where he started his career.

Conrad Ritblat is now part of a quoted property and agency business called Milner Estates, of which Mr Ritblat is chairman. Some question whether the British Land chairman should have his hat in two rings, but he insists that the firm's clients are happy with the arrangement.

However, what Mr Ritblat really likes is having his ear to the ground. "I don't want to be above the fray," he says. He is

a financial engineer rather than a property developer, and that is probably why British Land is relatively well regarded at a time when investor respect for property companies is very low. One analyst said: "Among property operators, he is one of the most clued-up financially. Property is not about building buildings; it is about reading the market; and he reads it very well."

He has read it well in the past, but at present, the jury is out and the issue is the future

trend of rents and values in the City of London. British Land shares have been a torrid investment this year, falling from an 800p peak in April to 486p at the end of last week. The shake-out has not been confined to British Land: the entire property sector has been under the cosh, but the dramatic events in the City have focused attention on British Land. Brokers and bankers fearful for their jobs often reflect on the identity of who owns the space occupied by

their desks. Quite often, it is Mr Ritblat.

His greatest coup was probably a series of astute deals over two years in which British Land took control of Broadgate, a 2.5 million sq ft office complex adjoining Liverpool Street station. At times, the pursuit of Broadgate looked like the sort of monumental obsession that British Land normally avoids. However, in this case the buildings were built by others. In particular Stuart Lipson and Godfrey Bradman, whose respective companies, Stanhope Properties and Rosehaugh, both faltered under the weight of debt incurred in the property boom.

Mr Ritblat fought a long battle with Hermes, the pension fund manager (then Postel), for control of the insolvent Stanhope, finally agreeing a £3 million takeover in 1995, assuming £155 million of Broadgate debt at just 82p in the pound. In 1996 the other half of Broadgate was bought from the receiver of Rosehaugh for a similar price of £121 million.

With Broadgate, British Land acquired the Ludgate office complex and it has since

been acquiring bits of the jigsaw that were given up by the scheme's original architects to keep their bankers at bay.

Last August British Land bought the ground rents on three Bishopsgate buildings from Railtrack, the freeholder, and in the following month paid £206 million for a long lease on 175 Bishopsgate, the notorious "Attali palace" occupied by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).

What troubles the stock market is the value attributed to these deals compared with the valuation on Broadgate as a whole. British Land has more than 40 per cent of its assets in the City, owning not only Broadgate but also the massive Plantation House, near Lloyd's of London, a cavernous building which British Land is in the process of redeveloping. The group's exposure to the City market is the largest of the top three property companies, and brokers speculate that the yield on which the Broadgate estate was valued in March was about 6.5 per cent. The EBRD interest was acquired at more

than 7 per cent, a yield closer to current estimates of property yields in the City.

All things being equal, Broadgate should suffer a valuation decline next March, but in the world of property nothing is ever equal.

The City property market is deadly quiet. Mr Ritblat says that investors are sitting out the financial turmoil in equity and bond markets. "We are in one of those grey periods," he suggests. "There was enormous uncertainty, and investors with any sense have been sitting on their hands."

Supporters of British Land point out that Broadgate is fully let, with high-quality tenants. Ownership of such a big slice of the City should fetch a premium. And unlike the last property bust, the City is not full of cranes; the overall vacancy rate is just 6 per cent. Even in the absence of bubbling tenant demand, the market should tick along nicely.

In a sense, that is the real fear — that property will stay dull, ignored in a deflationary environment. British Land's success has been its ability to exploit opportunities, but today's market offers few. In theory, the sharp fall in long-term bond rates makes the long-term leases typical in the UK property market look very attractive. If investors can raise five to ten-year money at 5 to 6 per cent, property yielding 7 to 8 per cent ought to be a steal.

But no one is buying. Perhaps the worst irritation to British Land is that it gets little credit for its achievements. It is currently valued at a 19 per cent discount to its net worth, three points ahead of the worthy but dull Land Securities.

In the end, Mr Ritblat and his predecessors are right. Property is just a commodity. It means to an end. Today's shareholders hope for a capital gain rather than a visit to the polls, so they are waiting for another clever deal from British Land. In its absence, they may vote with their feet.

CARL MORTSHED

WHAT THE EXPERTS SAY

"Our concern would be the 40 per cent or more exposure to the City of London, where yields and rents are under pressure. This could be exacerbated by further Broadgate purchases and the potential redevelopment of Plantation House adding a further 300,000 sq ft to the City market."

Alan Carter, Credit Suisse First Boston

"British Land has good quality assets, financing and management. The current concerns tend to focus on the City of London, but their properties are well let and even at low levels of expected demand, the supply/demand balance in the City does not look unfavourable."

Quentin Freeman, Warburg Dillon Read

THE VERDICT

Ethical expression..... 6/10
 Fat-cat quotient..... 9/10
 Financial record..... 9/10
 Share performance..... 5/10
 Attributed to staff..... 9/10
 Strength of brand..... 8/10
 Innovation..... 8/10
 Annual report..... 8/10
 City star rating..... 9/10
 Future prospects..... 7/10
 Total..... 79/100
 Ethical expression is evaluated by *Telegraph* World. The fat-cat quotient, in which best boardroom pay package scores highest, is provided by *Crisp Consulting*.

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Misery, masculinity, magnolia and mites

By one of those accidents of scheduling serendipity, the weekend threw up a selection of powerful programmes attitudinally to masculinity. Much the most appalling was Fergal Keane's short, moving film about male rape in American prisons, part of the Correspondent (BBC2, Saturday) contribution to BBC2's Human Rights season.

Keane simply used the testimony of two of the victims able or willing to testify. Ivory, a young black man, once raped, was forced to fight to "defend his manhood" for the rest of his sentence. Michael, a young white married petty criminal, was not so lucky. Immediately overpowered by a gang, he was sold for sex several times a day, day in day out. Beaten and threatened with death, he eventually told prison staff who simply ignored his complaints. He required corrective surgery and,

inevitably, has contracted HIV. What is most sickening about this is not the ghastly details of the assaults, the callous indifference of the authorities, or even the irreparable physical and emotional damage. It is the fact that the world has known about this problem through film dramas, documentaries and newspaper investigations for decades, yet the American Government appears to do absolutely nothing about it. Of course, it goes on elsewhere, including Britain, but in the United States prison rape seems to be widespread, persistent, automatic and routine. It is an abuse of human rights akin to the prison camp atrocities of Bosnia and a disgrace to American civilisation.

And it casts a sombre shadow over George Michael's experiences in that LA lavatory, Parkinson (BBC1, Saturday), was a *tour de force*, both for the grained old scalp-hunter and the singer him-

self, who positively glowed in the radiant warmth of Parky's sympathy. He has evidently "come out of himself" in a big way since he was forced to "come out" in the other sense. Relaxed, witty, warm, self-deprecating, utterly charming, he now looks like a truly happy man. And all because the LA police are so homophobic that they induce offences in public loos. If he had been sent to jail for a while, on the other hand...

However, being a real man is a condition fraught with pain, as a thousand gravel-throated singers have told us. I'm not sure what was so "secret" about Bruce Springsteen: A Secret History (BBC2, Saturday), unless you hadn't listened to his lyrics before. Here was an intrusive interviewer, just the "Boss" himself in a nickname acquired managing his first group's finances, meditating on his career



Paul Hoggart

and explaining his songs for us. He wanted, he said, to "connect" with people's experiences, which I suppose makes him a soulful macho counterpart of E.M. "only connect" Forster. He was never really, "the new Dylan". Dylan was more so, detached, alienated, sardonic. Springsteen has always looked for defining experiences in ordinary folk's lives, such as Vietnam in Born In The USA. The

centrepiece was a blues version of his most famous song.

He may sing rock, but we have heard that voice in blues, folk and country music, too. Never mind Dylan, you can find echoes of Leadbelly, Woody Guthrie, Johnny Cash or Elvis in there. This "hands off" style of profile might not have worked with a less thoughtful or complex artist, but with Springsteen it proved perfect as he gently talked us through his life and career, unpeeling the layers of his musical and emotional development.

To paraphrase Tammy Wynette, "sometimes it hurts to be a man-yan". Not, however, if you are Laurence Jewellin-Bowen, who seems to be a very joyful soul, considering the misery he sometimes leaves in his wake. Changing Rooms has been the outstanding popular success among the ever-growing genre of makeover programmes, so the

BBC and Bazal productions decided we were all gagging to know what really goes on behind the scenes.

I go without saying that Changing Rooms Stripped Bare (Saturday, BBC1) didn't tell us anything genuinely controversial or, heaven forbid, damaging to the programme's reputation. Yes, they do make the programmes in two days (less actually). No they don't go back and change the rooms if people don't like them. Well, all right, other people help with the work, apart from those seen on camera, but not, as alleged, teams of professional decorators.

I fear we are due for more and more of these cheap and cheerful spin-offs of cheap-and-cheerful series. The best moment came when the elegant, flowing-haired designer Laurence Jewellin-Bowen was taken to the home of

the Hull couple who had described his ludicrous and disgusting zebra-striped décor of their front room as a "tart's palace". It had been redecorated for them by a national magazine in rucked, chintzy beige, and it was painfully obvious that the poor man was in urgent need of a stiff brown paper bag. Serves him right. In a rare moment of genuine candour, we were shown his own home, which he is going to decorate in a "half-chic" style with magnolia paint throughout.

If the stunning computer animations on Impossible Journeys (BBC2, Sunday) are to be believed, there is a specialised mite living on every kind of domestic material, from flour and dust to cheese, each in a different shade of grey or beige. We weren't shown the Changing Rooms Designer Mite, but I expect it is lime green and magenta, and blithely untroubled about its masculinity.

6.00am Business Breakfast (36571)
7.00am BBC Breakfast News (1) (88945)
9.00am City Hospital (1) (710281)
10.05am News Regional News: Weather (1) (842552)
11.00am Good Living with Jane Asher (4942129)
11.25am Can't Cook, Won't Cook (1) (4945216)
11.55am News Regional News: Weather (1) (787485)
12.00pm Pass the Buck (9476026)
12.25pm Going for a Song (9455633)
12.50pm The Weather Show (1) (7320755)
1.00pm O'Clock News: Weather (1) (85804)
1.30pm Regional News: Weather (4507129)
1.40pm Neighbours Bill faces a tough choice (1) (9760216)
2.05pm Ironside A cop's daughter unwittingly sets off a chain of events destined to lead to her father's downfall (1) (482264)
2.55pm Battersea Dogs' Home New series examining the work of the animal shelter (482262)
3.25pm Children's BBC: Playdays (316533)
3.45pm Enchanted Lands: The Magic of the Fairytale (1) (85804)
3.55pm Monsters (8331007) 4.00pm Animal Magic Show (1527910) 4.15pm A Day in the Life (2545674) 4.30pm Goatsuckers (2530939) 5.00pm Newsworld (2518981) 5.10pm Blue Peter (7930007)
5.35pm Neighbours (1) (787485)
6.00pm Six O'Clock News: Weather (1) (878)
6.30pm Regional News Magazine (888)
7.00pm This is Your Life (1) (3303)
7.30pm Here and Now Hard-hitting investigations with Juliet Morton (1) (842)
8.00pm Eastenders The police question the locals (1) (8823)
8.30pm Birds of a Feather Sharon is approached by a modelling agency (1) (8755)
9.00pm Nine O'Clock News: Regional News: Weather (1) (7945)
9.30pm Men Behaving Badly Deborah and Dorothy take a weekend break, leaving the men on their own (1) (81281)
10.00pm Panorama Investigation into the 1994 massacres in Rwanda, examining claims that the UN ignored warnings of genocide, abandoning the victims to their grisly fate (1) (507848)
10.45pm They Think It's All Over With Jo Brand (1) (3303)
11.15pm On Sight With Michael Owen. Last in series (426292)
12.00pm Chicago Hope Daniel risks all for love, while Kate's scheming ex-husband seeks control of the hospital. Last in series (1) (340514)
12.45pm Weird Science Lisa creates a woman for Wyatt (1) (794531)
1.05pm How to Make a Monster (1986) Robert H. Harris plays a villainous horror film. But his director, who swears vengeance on the studio which sacked him, Shocker, with Paul Briner. Directed by Herbert I. Struck (1) (814224)
2.15pm Weather (594953)
2.20pm BBC News 24 (8933427)

7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show Wiggly Park (9496281) 7.05pm Teletubbies (9496283) 7.10pm Treasure Hunt (9496285) 7.15pm Blue Peter (1942424) 7.20pm Robinson Crusoe (3525525) 8.40pm Penny Crayon (8153303) 8.55pm Tales of the Tooth Fairies (8268220) 9.00pm Wiggly Park (9496281) 9.05pm The Phil Silvers Show (7278649) 9.30pm Great Romances of the 20th Century (437471) 10.00pm Children's BBC: Teletubbies (81738) 10.30pm FILM: Stagecoach (57582) 12.00pm Wildlife on Two (53533) 12.30pm Working Lunch (82587) 1.00pm Penny Crayon (21045674)
1.10pm The Arts and Crafts Hour (2639202)
2.10pm Mists of the Deep (842494)
2.40pm News: Weather (1) (8321463)
2.45pm On Cue with Steve Davis Alex Higgins v Jimmy White in 1982 (2902738)
3.25pm News: Weather (1) (8249216)
3.30pm Gardeners' World With Irish gardening guru Helen Dillon (1) (736)
4.00pm Change That (1) (3490263)
4.25pm Ready, Steady, Cook (1) (8342118)
4.55pm Lower Alcohol Problems (1) (7214339)
5.30pm Today's the Day (1) (187)
6.00pm The Simpsons Lisa takes offence at a new doll (1) (574295)
6.30pm 1999 The new encounter a living (1) (842494)
7.15pm Hit, Miss or Maybe (1) (72688)
7.30pm Sound Stories Film following members of a Welsh amateur dramatic society as they prepare to stage a production of *Singin' in the Rain* (1) (484)
8.00pm The Essential Guide to Rocks Ray Meers crosses the Pennines to admire a series of sandstone carvings (1) (7262)
8.30pm Food and Drink Guest chef John Torode prepares sea bass with ginger and garlic, and Antony Worrall Thompson makes tropical fruit pavlova (1) (8337)
9.00pm The Cops Tensions run high on Skidmore as rumours of police brutality spread (6/8) (1) (50591)
9.30pm Urgent Action (1) (803504)
9.55pm Article 19 (1) (81823)
10.00pm Big Train Comic sketches (1) (54262)
10.30pm Newsworld The day's headlines (1) (834769)
11.35pm On Air: The Truth About TV Reality television (2/3) (715028)
11.55pm Weather (325262)
12.00am Despatch Box (22175)
12.30pm BBC Learning Zone: Global Stories: Pacific Studies — Family, Ties, 1.00pm A Migrant's Heart 1.20pm Fiddle World 1.40pm Live-Lives 2.00pm Belfast Season: Other Worlds — A Death to Play For The Hop 2.15pm Way of Z — Beliefs 4.00 Languages: Spanish Journey — Part One 4.57pm Soundbites: Gary Lineker 5.00pm Business and Training Skills for Work 5.15pm Safety 5.45pm Open University: Nerves 6.10pm Living with Drought

5.30am ITN Morning News (42262)
6.00am GMTV (1458113)
9.25pm Trisha (1) (2187804)
10.15pm This Morning (1) (658484)
12.15pm HTV News and Weather (1) (3222991)
12.30pm Lunchtime News: Weather (1) (43723)
1.00pm WEST: Wild Tracks (72200)
1.00pm WALES: Yan Can Cook: The Best of China (72200)
1.30pm Home and Away Tom confides in Justin and Vinnie (1) (83284)
2.00pm The Jerry Springer Show (1) (5490842)
2.40pm WEST: Yan Can Cook: The Best of China (1) (425674)
2.40pm WALES: The Exorcism (1) (425674)
3.10pm ITN News Headlines (1) (8248587)
3.15pm HTV News (1) (8247858)
3.20pm CITY: Wizards (1451674) 3.35pm Tish (3236755) 3.50pm Soapy and Joe Pope star (1) (842494) 4.45pm Sabrina the Teenage Witch (9770465)
5.10pm WEST: Animal Country The damies of Britain's butterfly population (1) (812858)
5.10pm WALES: Moneyplanners (1) (812858)
5.40pm ITN Evening News: Weather (1) (43723)
6.00pm Home and Away (1) (877691)
6.25pm WALES: Wales Tonight: Weather (1) (57523)
6.25pm WEST: HTV Weather (415397)
6.30pm The West Tonight (1) (245)
6.55pm HTV Crimeoppers (810945)
7.00pm Wish You Were Here New series of the popular holiday show (1) (568)
7.30pm Coronation Street (1) (910)
8.00pm World in Action Investigating Britain's attitudes toward alcohol (1) (7216)
8.30pm Great Escapes Video footage of hair-breath brushes with death (9/9) (1) (3823)
9.00pm McCallum One-off special of the gritty crime drama. Nathaniel Parker and Eva Pope star. Continued after the news (1) (5026)
10.00pm News at Ten: Weather (1) (54216)
10.30pm HTV News and Weather (1) (144339)
10.40pm McCallum Continued (1) (85522)
11.40pm Staff the Week Comic review of the week (821207)
12.10am Short Story Cinema John Mahoney and Deborah Hedwall star as a couple traumatised by their son's murder (1) (394663)
12.40pm Football Extra (3971853)
1.40pm World Football (1) (507885)
2.10pm Clubvision (1) (3294578)
2.50pm Trisha Show earlier (1) (8894578)
3.40pm World in Action (1) (8894083)
4.05pm An Invitation Remember Ian Carmichael (1) (8702788)
4.30pm Nightcrawlers (37405)
5.00pm Coronation Street (1) (95976)

As HTV West except:
12.20pm-12.30pm Central News: Weather (6138755)
1.00pm Echo Point (77200)
1.30pm The Jerry Springer Show (7478378)
2.10pm Home and Away (86415910)
2.40pm 10.10 High Road (4295674)
3.15pm-3.20pm Central News (8247858)
5.10pm-5.40pm Shortland Street (8112858)
6.25pm-7.00pm Central News: Weather (875723)
10.30pm-10.40pm Central News: Weather (144933)
12.10pm-12.45pm Public Mors (3222991)
4.00pm Central Jobfinder '98 (5517576)
5.20pm-5.30pm Asian Eye (2480633)
WESTCOUNTRY
As HTV West except: 12.15pm-12.30pm Westcountry News: Weather (1) (3222991) 12.30pm-12.45pm Westcountry News: Weather (1) (3222991) 1.00pm-1.30pm Shortland Street (77200) 2.35pm-3.10pm The Jerry Springer Show (1) (5490842) 2.40pm-3.10pm Home and Away (1) (877691) 3.15pm-3.20pm Westcountry News: Weather (1) (8247858) 3.30pm-3.40pm Home and Away (1) (877691) 3.45pm-4.00pm Westcountry Live (1) (81804) 10.30pm-10.40pm Westcountry News: Weather (1) (144933) 12.10pm-12.40pm Public Mors (394663)
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SOUTH
Starts 5.55pm Sesame Street (1) (43198200) 7.00pm The Big Breakfast (46451939) 9.00pm Home Movies (1) (85715246) 9.35pm FILM: Mr Belvedere Rings the Bell (1981) (44832262) 11.10pm Billy Badmouth (1604007) 11.30pm Here's One I Made Earlier (1) (49141571) 12.00pm Right to Reality (1) (4022200) 12.30pm Sesame Street (1) (43198200) 1.00pm Planned Parenthood (1) (85723) 1.30pm The Real Albert Goering (1) (85723) 2.30pm Personal Services (1) (1) (11694378) 3.00pm Garden Doctors (7/11) (1) (11694378) 4.00pm Collectors' Lot (1) (11694378) 4.30pm Ricki Lake (1) (11694378) 5.00pm Planned Parenthood (1) (85723) 5.30pm Round a Round (1) (11694378) 6.00pm Newsworld (1) (11694378) 6.30pm News (1) (11694378) 7.00pm News (1) (11694378) 7.30pm News (1) (11694378) 8.00pm News (1) (11694378) 8.30pm News (1) (11694378) 9.00pm News (1) (11694378) 9.30pm News (1) (11694378) 10.00pm News (1) (11694378) 10.30pm News (1) (11694378) 11.00pm News (1) (11694378) 11.30pm News (1) (11694378) 12.00pm News (1) 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STORMY 46
Roger Bootle
says consumers
sense recession

BUSINESS

INACTIVE 50
Japan blind
to the need
for change

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY DECEMBER 7 1998

High street gloom expected to prompt rate cut

BY JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE City overwhelmingly expects the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee to cut base rates again this week in response to evidence that the economic slowdown is now hitting the high street and Britain's service industries.

Two new reports published today support a picture of slowing growth. The Council of Mortgage

Lenders said that a significant slowdown in domestic demand now appeared to be in prospect and that there was scope for further interest rate reductions. It predicted that house prices would increase more modestly in 1999 than in 1998 and that the number of transactions would be lower.

The Chartered Institute of Marketing (CIM) said that if Britain escapes recession it would be by the narrowest of margins and that in-

terest rates would have to fall sharply. Douglas McWilliams, economic adviser to the CIM, said: "Interest rates will fall steadily through 1999 and dip as low as 5 per cent, or possibly even 3 per cent, by sometime in 2000, bringing interest rates to their lowest level since the late 1940s."

The median forecast of a Reuters poll of 26 economists, conducted on Thursday after a co-ordinated round of European rate cuts, was

that UK base rates would bottom out at 5 per cent. For this week, the poll found economists putting a 75 per cent probability on a further rate cut of 0.25 per cent when the MPC concludes its monthly meeting on Thursday. Of those polled, three economists predicted another 0.5 per cent off rates.

David Macle, economist with JP Morgan, the US bank, said that recent British economic data had been so dreadful that the MPC

would have to rethink its previous forecasts. Last week, the CBI's latest distributive trades survey showed that high street sales were at their weakest since March 1995. The Chartered Institute of Purchasing & Supply reported the first monthly fall in services activity in November since it started tracking the sector in July 1996.

A poll by NOP Research Group found that two in three people would be keeping a watch on what

they spend at Christmas. Tony Lees, director of consumer research, said: "There has been much talk recently of an impending recession and the message appears to have had a significant effect."

Figures for industrial production and manufacturing output for October published today are expected to show contraction in both measures of Britain's industrial activity. Manufacturing is expected to show a decline of some 0.3 per cent, leaving

output 0.7 per cent lower than a year ago.

Members of the MPC recently acknowledged that they were focusing quite heavily on surveys as well as official data because of their forward-looking element and because they give a clue to consumer and corporate psychology. The MPC and CBI have expressed concern that despite the economy growing at a healthy pace—at least until recently—confidence has dropped dramatically.

Chiefs leave as Stagecoach heads south

BY FRASER NELSON

STAGECOACH has parted company with two of its most senior managers as part of a wide-ranging internal shake-up which has merged its native Scotland with the North of England.

Mike Kinski, who became chief executive last year, has decided that Stagecoach Scotland—for years the nucleus of the company—should now be run from Tyneside.

Neil Renilson, the highly-regarded chairman of Stagecoach Scotland, has left the company along with Jim Moffat, former head of Fife Scottish. Both men refused the offer of alternative posts elsewhere in the group.

Mr Kinski said: "I inherited a rather complicated structure. The Scottish business is not large enough to have its own structure. We don't want to have five people running the bus businesses, we want one UK bus director, and that's Brian Hinkley."

The move is expected to bring howls of protest within the Scottish business community. They are concerned about Scottish companies being run from south of the border—having seen such fa-

mous Scottish companies as Scottish Amicable and Distillers fall into English hands. The Distillers case still touches a raw nerve in Edinburgh, with Guinness promising to move its headquarters to Scotland when it took over the whisky maker and then reneging after the takeover.

At Stagecoach's interim results on Thursday next week, the company will say that Mr Hinkley, an executive director, has become chairman of all Stagecoach buses.

Brian Cox, the former British Rail manager who joined the company when it won the

controversial South West Trains rail franchise, has also stepped down as chief executive of the train network.

An internal Stagecoach memo last month explained that Mr Cox will now become "group commercial director". His tasks will include thinking of ways to win an extension to the train franchises, which are due to expire in three years' time. Stagecoach is due to lose its Isle of Wight train franchise in April 2002 and the South West Trains franchise in 2003.

Graham Eccles, general manager of South West Trains' Woking branch, replaces Mr Cox as head of SWT.

Robert Ballantyne, a former business editor of *The Times*, has been named communications director and it has also created an as-yet unfilled post for human resources.

Mr Kinski still works under Brian Souter, who founded the company as a Dundee-to-Glasgow coach service three days after deregulation in 1980. Mr Souter remains executive chairman and has given Mr Kinski day-to-day responsibility for running the company.

The group, now in the FTSE 100, makes more money from the 49 accountants at its Portbrook train rental division than from the 10,000 drivers, conductors and mechanics who run the buses.



Souter remains chairman



The Boat Show could be without the presence of Topper International, which usually has one of the largest stands, if the company goes into receivership

Topper International caught in choppy water

BY JASON NISSE

TOPPER INTERNATIONAL, one of the best known names in yachting, is set to be sold to a foreign buyer after filing with financial collapse.

The company, which makes dinghies retailing for anything between £1,200 and £2,000, is to meet with its creditors next week to secure a company voluntary arrangement (CVA) which should prevent it from going into receivership.

If the company did collapse it would be unlikely to be able to exhibit at the Boat Show, which will take place at Earls Court in West London in early January. Topper traditionally has one of the largest stands at the show and its name is well known in

yachting circles as the maker of easy-to-use sailing dinghies.

However, the accountant nominated to supervise the CVA, Andrew White of Moores Rowland in Brighton, has admitted that Topper is insolvent. In a letter to creditors, obtained by *The Times*, he says that the company owes more than £2.5 million to creditors, but its assets might be worth as little as £213,000.

Topper is controlled by C Scope, a small conglomerate based in Kent. Its managing director, Martin Fry, refused to discuss the circumstances that led to Topper's problems. However Mr Fry said that if the

CVA was agreed, Topper is likely to be sold. "Lots of offers have been made," he said. "Under the terms of the negotiations with any prospective purchasers, I cannot discuss the matter further."

However, it is expected the future of Topper will be made clear before the start of the Boat Show.

At the creditors' meeting, scheduled for December 15 at a hotel near Maidstone, 75 per cent of creditors need to vote in favour of the CVA for it to be approved. C Scope, the largest creditor, is backing the CVA, as are its bankers, NatWest, and Moores Rowland is convinced it will be able to obtain enough votes for Topper to avoid receivership.

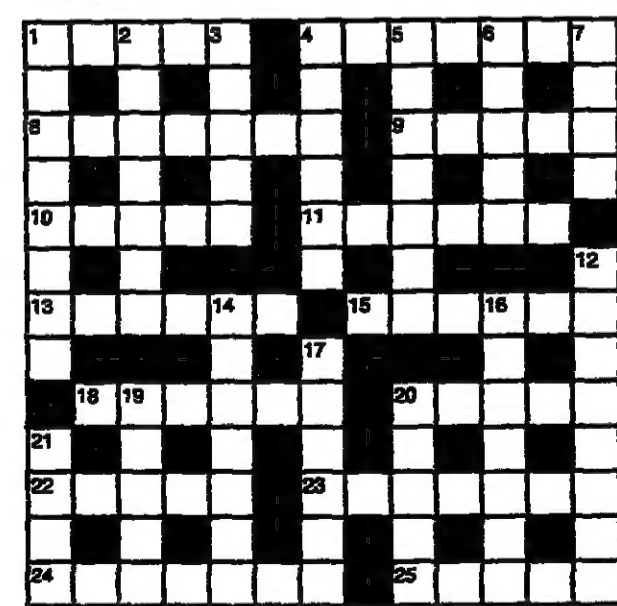
Sears faces bid approaches quiz

PHILLIPS & DREW Fund Management, holder of 24 per cent of the shares in Sears, is this week to meet the board of the troubled retailer to discuss bid approaches that have been made for it (Jason Nisse writes).

Sir Bob Reid, Sears' chairman, has denied that it is in any bid talks, but at least two potential bidders emerged at the weekend. One is a venture capital team led by John Loring, a former finance director of Sears. The other is Philip Green, the retailer who bought part of the Sears shoe retailing business earlier this year. Other potential bidders, including N Brown, the mail order group, are said to be waiting in the wings.

Sears' board is due to meet tomorrow and will speak to P&D later this week. It is understood that other shareholders are pressing Sears to look at potential bids that could value it at more than £450 million.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1582

- ACROSS**
- Berkshire racecourse (5)
 - Restricted (7)
 - Raise to peerage (7)
 - Praise highly (5)
 - Appointment book (5)
 - Get hold of (6)
 - One or the other (6)
 - Ally (6)
 - Excavate (stone); one hunted (6)
 - Welsh town; something hard, igniting (5)
 - Deposit; take accommodation (5)
 - Made void; denied (7)
 - Space(s) return to atmosphere (2,5)
 - Belated, slow (5)
- DOWN**
- The Granite City (5)
 - State of touching; useful acquaintance (7)
 - Rather fat (5)
 - Avoid attention (2,3)
 - Star conductor (7)
 - Everyone play (mus.) (5)
 - Dish out; a benefit (4)
 - (Argued) in emotional way (3)
 - Pledge; serious (7)
 - A cheat (US) whirlwind (7)
 - NSW capital (6)
 - Excessive (5)
 - Battle (5)
 - Pronounce indistinctly (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1581

ACROSS: 1 Ruff 3 Pussy-cat 5 Clapper 10 Tronc 11 Sociologist 13 Notify 15 Uganda 17 Precious few 20 Award 21 Awkward 22 Daydream 23 Dhow

DOWN: 1 Recusant 2 Franc 4 Uproot 5 Sitting duck 6 Crouton 7 Tick 9 Proof-reader 12 War widow 14 Topiary 16 Cicada 18 Flash 19 Wand

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Supermarket price war looms

BY FRASER NELSON

BRITAIN'S supermarkets will next year launch an all-out price war to answer suspicions that they are ripping off their customers, according to a report released today.

Verdict, the retail consultancy, believes that shoppers are now expecting a wave of price cuts after heavy publicity suggesting that food retailers are making too much profit.

J Sainsbury and Tesco are likely to start a price war, it says, with damaging consequences for Asda and Sainsbury. Clive Vaughan, an analyst at Verdict, says: "We don't believe supermarkets are overcharging, but that's beside the point now because everybody is expecting them to cut prices."

"A few reductions can easily tumble into a price war. Sainsbury is in no condition to cope with this, and Asda will soon find its unique selling point of

low, low prices going out of the window."

The big four, he says, are already preparing for the battle. "It's no coincidence that J Sainsbury has taken £100 million of costs out of its system by taking out management in regional offices."

However, Verdict believes that Tesco will emerge as the victor in any price war because it has the critical mass to keep on discounting while its rivals struggle.

While the top four battle it out, Verdict believes that customers of the heavy discounters—such as Aldi, Netto and Lidl—will be gradually deserted as their shops shift upmarket. The merged Kwik Save and Somerfield is already increasing prices and giving a better quality offering, it says, leaving a gap that the discounters will have to fill.

Scots power group eyes Pacificorp

BY JANET BUSH

SCOTTISHPOWER is poised to announce a merger with Pacificorp, a deal that would form the world's largest multi-utility group and be third time lucky for the Scottish company's attempts to win a foothold in the US energy market.

ScottishPower confirmed yesterday that it was in high-level talks but said that there were still issues to be resolved. There are hopes of an announcement as early as today.

If the merger goes ahead, with ScottishPower expected to be the lead partner, the combined company would be worth £12.5 billion and boast seven million customers. Shares in Pacificorp were valued at \$6.2 billion (£3.7 billion) on Wall Street on Friday. However, speculation suggests that ScottishPower could pay a premium that valued Pacificorp at \$7.5 billion.

Golden farewell for former Newcastle finance director

BY JASON NISSE

NEWCASTLE UNITED, the football club that has seen six members of its board resign in less than two years as a quoted company, paid its former finance director £99,000 as a golden goodbye.

Jo Dixon, who joined the company from NatWest Group, resigned in May amid the turmoil that engulfed the company after injudicious comments made by two of the directors—Douglas Hall and Freddy Shepherd—to a newspaper reporter in a Spanish

brother. The payoff was the equivalent to 18 months' basic salary for Ms Dixon, a lifelong Newcastle fan who joined the club shortly before it floated.

Ms Dixon was hired by Mark Corbridge, the joint chief executive who was forced out last year and picked up a £400,000 payoff.

Denis Cassidy, chairman, is also set to resign after a row about attempts to restore Mr Hall and Mr Shepherd to the board of the quoted company.

Cameron Hall, the Hall family private company that owns 57 per cent of Newcastle's shares, has said it will block the re-election of two non-executive directors, John Fender and Tom Fenton, at today's annual meeting and propose the election of Mr Hall and Mr Shepherd instead.

The moves were rejected by the four non-executive directors of the company and the meeting has been adjourned while attempts are made to broker a peace deal.

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